Course Description

This course serves as a capstone achievement of your economics major. We will be concentrating on topics in world economic development. Development economics is a diverse field addressing a range of vital issues. For instance, how can we accurately identify, measure, and alleviate poverty? Why isn’t the whole world developed? What can history teach us about the process of development and about the prospects for the future? What is the role of geography, institutions, and trade? How do we design and implement effective policy? These and other pressing questions from the study of economic development. Topics discussed in this course include poverty, inequality measurement, economic growth, historical development, colonialism, convergence, demographics, trade, development policy and institution, credit markets, migration, and foreign aid.

Course Format

The course will be taught through two weekly classes. Students must finish the required reading assignments prior to class. The class will be composed of a presentation by a student followed by a discussion as well as lecturing. Readings for each class are specified in the reading list.
Course Objectives

Successful students should be able to effectively read, evaluate, present, discuss and write research papers in the field of economics.

Textbook

No textbook is required. I post all the readings on Canvas.

Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Highest Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Presentation

- Each student is going to make at two or three presentations (using slides) based on articles from the reading list. Each presentation should last about 30-45 minutes, during and after which all participants in the seminar are free to ask questions.
- Please email me 4 articles you would like to present (and your preferences) by Friday, August 30th.
- Not presenting on a scheduled time will result in a presentation score of zero.
- If you are presenting, please arrive 5 minutes early to set up the projector.
- Some articles are harder to present than others. The grading on those articles will be relatively more lenient.
- Your presentation should have two components: a summary of the paper, and your original thoughts about the paper. Regarding the latter, you can think about a few questions. For example, 1) Does the paper address the question with the appropriate methods? What are the advantages/shortcomings of the methods employed? 2) How robust do you think the results are? Do you agree with the author(s)?
3) What, if anything, would you do differently?

**Reading Quiz**

There will be five unannounced reading quizzes. These quizzes are to test if you finished reading assignments. To compensate for any bad luck that causes you to miss a quiz, I drop the lowest one.

**Course Paper**

The course paper is due to me via email by **11:59PM, Friday, 12/6**. You can choose either to write a literature review or an empirical paper. Whichever you choose, your paper must meet the following formatting requirements.

- At least 12 pages of double-spaced text (not including references, tables and figures).
- Use a 12-point font and Times New Roman.
- Number the pages
- The organization of your paper
  1. Abstract
  2. Chapters/Sections
  3. References
  4. Tables and Figures

**Literature Review**

The goal of a literature review is to offer an overview of the literature published on a topic. A literature review should have the following elements:

- An overview of the topic under consideration; why the literature review is necessary and important
- Division of works under review into categories
- Summaries of each work; explanation of how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others
Conclusions as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research.

**Empirical Paper**

An empirical paper should have the following structure:

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Data Description
- Econometric Model
- Results

For more guidelines, click on [here](#).

**Classroom Policy**

1. Personal conversations should be avoided.
2. Laptops, tablets, and cell phones are not a problem if they are being used to help enhance your learning in the classroom. They are not to be used for other personal activities.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic misconduct. Academic honesty is fundamental to our community and I take it very seriously. A confirmed violation of the Code of Academic Integrity in this course will result in failure for the course.

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

If you need accommodations for disabilities, I ask you to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. The DRC will work with me to make necessary accommodations to facilitate your educational opportunities.
Grading Policy

90+   A
87-89  A-
84-86  B+
80-83  B
75-79  B-
70-74  C+
65-69  C
60-64  D
0-59   F

Standard rounding rules apply.

Course Schedule and Reading List

Topic 1: Introduction to Economic Development
Topic 2: Understanding Development
Topic 3: Measuring Inequality and Poverty
Topic 4: Modern Economic Growth Theory
Topic 5: Inference in Economic Development
Topic 6: Geography
Topic 7: Historical Institutions: Warfare, Colonialism, and the Slave Trade
Topic 8: Household Distribution and Bargaining
Topic 9: Demographics, Population Policy, and Migration
Topic 10: Health and Nutrition
Topic 11: Education
Topic 12: Pollution Exposure

Topic 13: Climate Change

Topic 14: Credit, Insurance, and Financial Crises

Topic 15: Corruption, Culture, and Regulation

Topic 16: Behavioral Economics

Topic 17: Globalization, Migration, and Foreign Aid