

Economics 4784 Economic Development  
Fall 2005

Course Meets 08/23/05-12/08/05

Tue, Thurs 2:00-3:15 Guggenheim 205

No Class Thurs, Oct. 13 (fall Break) & Thurs. Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving)

Instructor Information

Professor Barry W. Poulson, Professor, Department of Economics

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Office Hours: 12:30-2:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

Texts

Gerald M. Meier and James E. Rauch, *Leading Issues in Economics Development*,  
Oxford University Press, 2005

William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, MIT Press, 2002

Barry Eichengreen, *Financial Crises*, Oxford University Press, 2002

Course Objectives

The course will introduce students to the major issues in economic development. Students will use the tools of economic analysis to explore these issues. The objective is to not only describe the major problems encountered in developing countries, but also to explain these outcomes using the tools of economic analysis. Students will be expected to explore the policy implications of their analysis. Emphasis will be placed on the controversial issues in this literature, requiring students to understand competing and often conflicting perspectives on these issues. Through written essays, class participation, and presentations students are expected to develop their skills in written and oral expression, as well as their understanding of economics.

Course Schedule

| Dates            | Topics   | Assignments<br>Meir and<br>Rauch | Assignments<br>Other |
|------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|
|                  | Topic 1. Introduction to Economic Growth and Development |                                  |                      |
| Aug 23           | Overview   | I Overview                       | Easterly I 1         |
| Aug 25           | Measuring Development                                    | IA                               |                      |
| Aug 30           | Economic Performance of Less Developed Countries         | IB                               |                      |
| Sep 6            | The Discipline of Development Economics                  | IC                               | Easterly<br>II 2-3   |
| Sept 8-<br>Sep13 | Historical Perspective                                   | II                               |                      |
| Sep 15           | Essay due on Topic 1                                     |                                  |                      |

|        |  |                            |   |
|--------|--|----------------------------|---|
|        | Roundtable Discussion on Economic Growth and Development                                   |                            |   |
|        |  |                            |   |
|        | Topic 2. Population and Human Resources  |                            |   |
| Sep 20 | Overview   | IV Overview                |   |
| Sep 22 | Population   | IV C                       | Easterly II 5                                   |
| Sep 27 | Education  | IVA                        | Easterly II 4                                   |
| Sep 29 | Health and Nutrition   | IV B                       |   |
| Oct 4  | Gender and Development   | IV D                       |   |
| Oct6   | Essay Due on Topic 2<br>Roundtable Discussion on Population and Human Resources            |                            |   |
|        |  |                            |   |
|        | Topic 3. The International Economy and Development   |                            |   |
| Oct 11 | International Trade  | III Overview<br>III A      |   |
| Oct 18 | Technological Change   | III B                      | Easterly<br>III 8-9                             |
| Oct 20 | Investment and Finance   | V Overview<br>V 1-2, 5     |   |
| Oct 25 | International Financial Markets  | V 3-4                      | Easterly<br>II 6-7,10<br>Eichengreen<br>Ch. 1-6 |
| Oct 27 | Essay Due on Topic 3<br>Roundtable Discussion on The International Economy and Development |                            |   |
|        |  |                            |   |
|        | Topic 4. Agriculture and the Environment   |                            |   |
| Nov 1  | Agriculture and Development  | VII<br>Overview            |   |
| Nov 3  | Agricultural Policy  | VII A                      |   |
| Nov 8  | Microeconomics of the Rural Sector   | VII B                      |   |
| Nov 10 | The Environment  | X Overview                 |   |
| Nov 15 | Sustainable Development  | X 1-5                      |   |
| Nov 17 | Essay Due on Topic 4<br>Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and the Environment           |                            |   |
|        |  |                            |   |
|        | Topic 5. Welfare and Political Economy   |                            |   |
| Nov 22 | The Impact of Development on Income Distribution   | VIII<br>Overview<br>VIII A |   |
| Nov 24 | The Impact of Income Distribution on Development   | VIII B-C                   |   |
| Nov 29 | Political Economy  | IX Overview<br>IX A-C      |   |
| Dec 6  | Institutional Reform   |                            | Easterly  |

|       |  |  |           |
|-------|--|--|-----------|
|       |  |  | III 11-14 |
| Dec 8 | Essay Due on Topic 5<br>Roundtable Discussion on Welfare and Political Economy |  |           |

### Course Requirements

Written Essays (account for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the grade)

Each student will write a series of essays focusing on the five major topics of the course. Choose a developing country as the basis for your essays. Each essay should then relate the issues explored in the course to the experience of that country. Each essay should be between 5 and 10 type written pages in length.

In writing these essays you will find the required texts a good starting point. You should then incorporate other bibliographic sources, especially as they relate to the more recent development in the country you are examining. In writing these essays you are welcome to use any source materials that you find relevant. You will find an extensive literature on economic growth and development in different regions and countries on the internet, and you are encouraged to make full use of these resources. The following sites are a good place to start to put together source materials for your essays:

The World Bank  
The International Monetary Fund

The lectures will introduce different perspectives on the issue examined in the course. Students should use the lecture materials with other source materials as the basis for the essays.

The essays should follow the format for term papers described in standard style manuals. Most importantly, the essays should be properly documented, including a bibliography, and footnotes or end notes. Papers without proper documentation will not be accepted.

Class Attendance and Participation (account for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the grade)

Students are required to attend class and attendance will be taken. Students can miss one class in each of the five segments of the course identified above. If more than one class is missed in a particular segment this will lower the grade for that segment and the final grade.

Class participation is an important part of the course. Class discussions will focus on the controversial aspects of the development literature. One class period is set aside for a roundtable discussion of each of the issues explored in the course. Students should be prepared to discuss the experience of the country they study as it relates to that issue in the roundtable discussion.

Grading

Students will receive five grades based upon the written assignments and class participation in each segment of the course. The written essay will account for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the grade, and class attendance and participation will count for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the grade. The five grades are equally weighted for the final grade.

If students have any questions regarding the course requirements or grading they should meet with me at the beginning of the course. All university policies apply in this course relating to disabilities, religious observance, honor code, etc.. If you have any questions regarding these university policies see [www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html).

