

**ECONOMICS 4784**  
**Economic Development**  
**Fall 2005**

**Instructor:** Billy Mertens  
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**Office Hours:** MWF 10:05 – 11:35am, M 4 – 5:30pm, and by appointment

**Required text:**

Debraj Ray, *Development Economics*, Princeton University Press, 1998.

**Prerequisites:**

Students must have completed ECON 2010 and ECON 2020, or have completed ECON 1000. It is NOT sufficient to take these courses concurrently. I assume that you did not only take the class(es), but also that you understand and remember the content. In addition, doing well in this course requires proficiency in mathematical and economic analysis at the level of Intermediate Microeconomic theory (ECON 3070). It is essential that you have good algebra skills and mathematical intuition.

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce you to the field of development economics. Development economics is a vast field, and the content of an undergraduate course is apt to vary from one instructor to another. The economic, political, and social forces underlying many of the issues involved in development economics are complex, multi-faceted, and dynamic. They cannot be fully or easily analyzed in a professional lifetime, much less a one-semester course. They do, however, lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to development economics and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics, misleading anecdotal evidence, and the reasonable presentation of information.

We will begin by exploring the concept of development, and go through various components of development that economists typically study, including economic growth, income inequality, poverty, sustainable development, education, health & nutrition, and international trade.

*A more detailed outline of covered material and chapters is posted separately.*

**Expectations:**

As with many other courses in economics, this course will be technical in nature. I will expect you to have a solid background in algebra and basic statistical concepts. I will review some basic statistics in the first few lectures.

**Assignments:**

We will use several different models to analyze the different topics covered. These models are based largely on diagrams and some mathematics. You will be given problem sets that will be instrumental in your preparation for exams. I will cover all necessary material to complete these problem sets and prepare for exams in class.

**Exams and grading:**

There will be three exams, and three problem sets. The following weights will be used to compute your final grade.

Exam I (9/27)	25%
Exam II (11/1)	25%
Exam III (12/13)	25%
Homework Total	21%
Class Participation	4%

The homework and exams will be a mix of problems and short-answer questions. You can help your class participation grade by attending class and by contributing to the discussion class (e.g. by attempting to answer questions I ask during lectures). I will review before exams, but you should not view this as a substitute for attending lectures.

Exams are not cumulative, but the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. **There will be NO makeup exams! If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero unless there is a proven emergency that prevents you from attending class on the scheduled exam date. You are required to submit proof of the emergency.** Simply being sick is not enough to excuse you from an exam – you need to be seriously ill!! You may take exams early if you have a good reason and arrange it with me *well in advance*. NO exams will be dropped!!!

You can work with your classmates on homework assignments, but each person has to turn in separate work, and you are not allowed to copy someone else's work. If you work with someone else, write down the name of the person you worked with at the top of the first page and indicate that you worked with that person.

If you have a grading dispute, come see me in office hours. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.

#### **Incompletes, Extra Credit, etc.**

I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An IF is given only when students, *beyond their control*, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been *satisfactorily completed* before approval for such a grade is completed.”). No IWs will be given! Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

**I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.**

#### **Grading Scale:**

<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-
88% to 89%	B+
82% to 87%	B
80% to 81%	B-
78% to 79%	C+
72% to 77%	C
70% to 71%	C-
68% to 69%	D+
62% to 67%	D
60% to 61%	D-
Below 59.5%	F

#### **Additional Notes:**

*Honor Code*

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

#### *Disabilities*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the instructor from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

#### *Religious holidays*

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students can be found at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/> Review this list and the class syllabus. After reviewing the syllabus, please see the instructor if you believe that you need an accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor should be notified within the first two weeks of classes. Campus policy regarding religious observances states that faculty must make *reasonable* accommodation for them and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. For more information see [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

#### *Code of Behavior*

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

#### *Policy on Sexual Harassment*

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/>

#### **Emails:**

Appropriate emails take one of the following two forms:

1. To schedule an appointment if you have classes during all of my office hours.
2. Last minute questions before tests (after ALL office hours have ended) – I can't guarantee a response, but I will try.