

Economics 4784 Economic Development  
Fall 2006  
Course Meets 08/29/06 – 12/14/06  
Tue, Thurs 2:00-3:15 Econ 117  
No Class Nov. 21-23 (fall Break & 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***

#### **Topic 1. Introduction to Economic Growth and Development**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	
		<b>Meir and Rauch</b>	<b>Other</b>
Aug 29	Overview	I Overview	Easterly I1
Aug 31	Measuring Development	IA	

Sept 5	Economic Performance of Less Developed	IB	
Sept 7	The Discipline of Development Economics	IC	Easterly II 2-3
Sept 12-14	Historical Perspective	II	
Sept 19	Essay due on Topic 1 Roundtable Discussion on Economic Growth and Development		

### Topic 2. Population and Human Resources

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Sept 21	Overview	IV Overview	
Sept 26	Population	IV C	Easterly II 5
Sept 28	Education	IVA	Easterly II 4
Oct 3	Health and Nutrition	IV B	
Oct 5	Gender and Development	IV D	
Oct 10	Essay Due on Topic 2 Roundtable Discussion on Population and Human Resources		

### Topic 3. The International Economy and Development

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Oct 12	International Trade	III Overview III A	
Oct 17	Technological Change	III B	Easterly

			III 8-9
Oct 19	Investment and Finance	V Overview V 1-2, 5	
Oct 24	International Financial Markets	V 3-4	Easterly II 6-7,10
Oct 26	Financial Crises and Reform		Eichengreen Ch. 1-6
Oct 31	Essay Due on Topic 3 Roundtable Discussion on The International Economy and Development		

#### **Topic 4. Agriculture and the Environment**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
		<b>Meir and Rauch</b>	<b>Other</b>
Nov 2	Agriculture and Development	VII Overview	
Nov 7	Agricultural Policy	VII A	
Nov 9	Microeconomics of the Rural Sector	VII B	
Nov 14	The Environment	X Overview	
Nov 16	Sustainable Development	X 1-5	
Nov 28	Essay Due on Topic 4 Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture and the Environment		

## Topic 5. Welfare and Political Economy

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Nov 30	The Impact of Development on Income Distribution	VIII Overview VIII A	
Dec 5	The Impact of Income Distribution on Development	VIII B-C	
Dec 7	Political Economy	IX Overview IX A-C	
Dec 12	Institutional Reform		Easterly III 11-14
Dec 14	Essay Due on Topic 5 Roundtable Discussion on Welfare and Political Economy		

### ***Course Requirements***

#### **Written Essays**

Each student will write five 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 Presentations and Participation**

Students are expected to make two class presentations in the course. These class presentations will be scheduled on the roundtable discussion dates. The class presentations should focus on a specific controversial issue relating to the topic rather than a summary of the essay written for the topic. Students should allow 5-10 minutes for the presentation and class discussion.

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 essays and class presentation/participation in each segment of the course. The written essay will account for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the grade, and class presentation/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).