

Economics 4784-001 Economic Development
Fall 2007
Course Meets 08/28/07 – 12/13/07
Tue, Thurs 2:00-3:15 Econ 119
No Class Nov. 20-22 (fall Break & Thanksgiving)

Instructor Information

Professor Barry W. Poulson, Professor, Department of Economics
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Office Hours: 11:00am-12:00pm 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
Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, Random House, 2000

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 term papers, 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

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Aug 28	Overview	I Overview	Easterly I-1

Aug 28	Measuring Development	IA	Sen 1-3
Aug 30	Economic Performance of Less Developed	IB	Easterly II-2
Sept 4	The Discipline of Development Economics	IC	Easterly II-3
Sept 11	Essay due on Topic 1		

Topic 2. Population and Migration

Dates	Topics	Assignments Meir and Rauch	Assignments Other
Sept 6	Overview	IV Overview	
Sept 6	Population	IV C	Easterly II-5 Sen 9
Sept 11	Urban Growth and Infrastructure	VI A	
Sept 13	Rural Urban Migration and the Informal Sector	VI B	
Sept 18	Roundtable Discussion on Population and Migration		

Topic 3. Human Resources

Dates	Topics	Assignments Meir and Rauch	Assignments Other
Sept 20	Education	IVA	Easterly II 4
Sept 25	Health and Nutrition	IV B	Sen 7

Sept 27	Gender and Development	IV D	Sen 8
Oct 2	Roundtable Discussion on Human Resources		
Oct 2	Essay due on Topics 2 and 3		

Topic 4. Agriculture

Dates	Topics	Assignments Meir and Rauch	Assignments Other
Oct 4	Agriculture and Development	VII Overview	
Oct 9	Agricultural Policy	VII A	
Oct 11	Microeconomics of the Rural Sector	VII B V 5	
Oct 16	Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture		

Topic 5. The Environment

Dates	Topics	Assignments Meir and Rauch	Assignments Other
Oct 18	The Environment	X Overview	
Oct 23	Sustainable Development	X 1-5	
Oct 25	Roundtable Discussion on the Environment		
Oct 25	Essay Due on Topics 4 and 5		

Topic 6. International Trade and Technological Change

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Oct 30	International Trade	III Overview III A	
Nov 1	Technological Change	III B	Easterly III 8-9
Nov 6	Roundtable Discussion on International Trade and Technological Change		

Topic 7. International Finance and Reform

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Nov 8	Investment and Finance	V Overview V 1-2	
Nov 13	International Financial Markets	V 3-4	Easterly II 6-7,10
Nov 15	Financial Crises and Reform		Eichengreen Ch. 1-6
Nov 27	Roundtable Discussion on International Finance and Reform		
Nov 27	Essay Due on Topics 6 and 7		

Topic 8. Income Distribution and Poverty

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Nov 29	The Impact of Development on Income Distribution	VIII Overview VIII A	Sen 4
Dec 4	The Impact of Income Distribution on Development	VIII B-C	

Topic 9. Political Economy

Dates	Topics	Assignments	Assignments
		Meir and Rauch	Other
Dec 6	Political Economy	IX Overview IX A-C	Sen 5-6,10-12
Dec 11	Institutional Reform		Easterly III 11-14
Dec 13	Roundtable Discussion on Income Distribution, Poverty, and Political Economy		
Dec 13	Essay Due on Topics 8 and 9		

Course Requirements

Five Essays

Each student will write five essays focusing on the 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 5 to 10 type written pages in length.

Term Paper

In addition to the five essays each student will write a term paper. The term paper should explore one of the specific development issues in some depth, as it relates to the country the student has selected. The term paper should focus on the controversial questions regarding that issue. Since much of this controversy will be with regard to the public policies that country has pursued, the student is required to make and defend policy recommendations regarding that issue. The term paper should be approximately 10 typewritten pages in length.

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

In writing the essays and term paper you will find the required texts a good starting point in finding source materials. 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 and term paper 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:

The World Bank
The International Monetary Fund

The essays and term paper should follow the format 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

Each student is required to participate in one roundtable discussion. That participation will include a brief (5-10 minute) summary of the major findings and policy recommendations in the term paper (don't read the term paper). This should allow time for questions from the class and discussion among the participants in the roundtable 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 topics explored in the course.

Grading

Students will receive five grades based upon the written essays and class attendance and class participation. These five grades are equally weighted and will account for three fourths of the final grade. The term paper and presentation in the roundtable discussion will account for one fourth of 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, not at the end 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.