

ECON 4774-001: Economic Reform in Developing Countries

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- Class Schedule: MWF 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. in ECON 117.
- Office Hours: F 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and by appointment.
- Textbooks: There is one required textbooks for this class: *The Elusive Quest for Growth* by Bill Easterly (The MIT Press, 2002).
- Course Objectives: The persistent disparities in incomes per capita across the world today pose one of the most important questions that confront economists. What are the fundamental determinants of sustained economic development? Is economic integration good for economic development? What about socio-political progress? Thanks to a proliferation of reliable data both at the macro and the micro levels in the last two decades, economists have made important strides in helping to answer this question. Yet, the continuing failure of many countries to pull out of the ranks of the hopelessly poor is a testament to the amount of work that still needs to be done. While many determinants of sustained economic growth and progress are economy-wide (like the establishment of the rule of law, the security of property rights, sustained rates of technological progress and levels of investment etc.), many others stem from decisions made within the household (like how many children to have and how much to invest in each). In this class, we shall explore how and why some countries have succeeded and many others have failed (so far) in the pursuit of economic prosperity. An important emphasis will be on trying to assess the impact of globalization in all this.

Assignments and Grading:

The final grade for the class will be determined as follows:

Midterm 1	20 %
Midterm 2	20 %
Group Project/Presentations	25 %
Term Paper	20 %
Class Participation	15 %

No makeup exams or substitute grading assignments will be given. The only exceptions are covered by campus guidelines on absences due to religious observance (see below).

Group Project:

Each group, which should comprise of four members, is expected to pick a developing country by the end of January and write a double-spaced, twelve-page report on the country of focus in the chapter. The report, which would be due the last week of classes, should explain the key findings in the chapter and critique them. The report would serve as the basis of a roughly half an hour class presentation.

Group Paper Presentation:

Each group is expected to pick one article from the reading list for the class (see below) by September 11th, Thursday. They will present the main findings and conclusions of their paper in class. The main purpose of the presentation, which should last about 15 minutes, is to (a) help convey your assessment of the article to the class and (b) stimulate a class discussion. A double-spaced, four-page executive summary will also be turned in (and handed out) at the presentation.

Disability Accommodations:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter 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, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Absences due to Religious Observance:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html If you have scheduling conflict covered by this policy, please let me

know at least one week in advance so that we can reschedule the relevant assignment.

Reading List:

<http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses/iyigun/E4774readlist.pdf>

Preliminary Course Outline:

<u>Week Starting</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8/26	The Course Mechanics and logistics Introduction & Relevant Facts
9/2	More Facts & Questions
9/9	Pritchett (Reading list I.10)
9/16	Jones (Reading List I.6)
9/23	Easterly (2002, Ch. 1)
9/30	Article Presentations
10/7	Easterly (2002, Chs. 2)
10/9 (Thursday)	No Class
10/14	In Class Midterm review
10/16	Midterm Exam I
10/21	Article Presentations
10/28	Easterly (2002, Ch. 3 & 4)
10/30	No Class
11/4	Article Presentations
11/11	Easterly (2002, Ch. 5 & 6)
11/18	Article Presentations

<u>Week Starting</u>	<u>Topic</u>
11/20	Midterm Exam II
11/25	Thanksgiving Week Break
12/2	Easterly (2002, Ch. 7)
12/9	Article Presentations
12/16	Final Project Due (4:00 pm)