

ECON 4774-001: Economic Reform in Developing Countries

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- Class Schedule: TTh 11:00 – 12:15 am in HLMS 211.
- Office Hours: T 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.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 September 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 16th, 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.

Exam Absence:

If you fail to show up for an exam with out an acceptable excuse (such as an illness that can be documented with a medical note or you have been given permission by me to take a make-up exam), you will get a zero for that exam.

Classroom Behavior: *Turn your cell phones and laptops off.* If you use your laptop for class purposes, you are required to sit in the last row of the classroom.

Harassment Policy:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member or faculty member who believes (s)he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, age disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should

contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at (303) 492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at (303) 492-5550.

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.

Academic Integrity:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policies of UCB. Violations of these policies may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct should be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu or (303) 725-2273).

Reading List:

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

Preliminary Course Outline:

Week Starting

Topic

8/24

The Course Mechanics and logistics

Introduction & Relevant Facts

8/31

More Facts & Questions

9/7	Pritchett (Reading list I.10)
9/14	Jones (Reading List I.6)
9/21	Easterly (2002, Ch. 1)
9/28	Article Presentations
10/5	In Class Midterm review
10/7	Midterm Exam I
10/12	Easterly (2002, Chs. 2)
10/19	Article Presentations
10/26	Easterly (2002, Ch. 3 & 4)
11/2	Article Presentations
11/9	Article Presentations
11/16	Easterly (2002, Ch. 5 & 6)
11/18	Midterm Exam II
11/22	Fall Break & Thanksgiving
11/30	Easterly (2002, Ch. 7)
12/7	Article Presentations
12/13	Final Project Due (4:30 pm)