

Economics 4784-001: Economic Development

Spring 2008

Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:15 PM

Room: Guggenheim 205

Class Website through CULearn: <https://culearn.colorado.edu/>

No Class: 3/24-3/28 (Spring Break)

Professor Francisca Antman

Office: Economics 14b

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-1:30 PM, 3:30-5:00 PM, and by appointment

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Email: francisca.antman@colorado.edu (preferred method of contact)

Course Description

In this course we will explore empirical, theoretical, and policy issues surrounding economic development. These topics will include theories of economic growth, inequality, poverty, demographic change, migration, as well as characteristics of land, labor, and credit markets in developing countries. Note that the field of development economics is very broad and so an introductory course will naturally vary from instructor to instructor. The approach taken in this course is to touch on the many areas of interest to development economists to provide a broad introduction to the field.

Prerequisites: Econ 1000 (Intro to Econ) or Econ 2010 AND 2020 (Principles of Micro and Principles of Macro).

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

Grading

Midterm 1: 20%

Midterm 2: 20%

Final Exam (cumulative): 40%

Homework 1: 7.5%

Homework 2: 7.5%

In-class Exercises/Class Participation: 5%

Class Policies

The text covers far more material than will be covered in class and I will present material in class that is not in the textbook, so it is in your interest to come to class. You will be responsible for material covered in lectures unless otherwise mentioned in class or noted by email or on the course website. Occasionally, I will also make available articles from other sources that I would like for you to read for class discussion.

Throughout this class, we will do in-class exercises that will help prepare you for homework and exams while also encouraging you to think on your feet, work in groups, and possibly present your work to the class. These exercises will not be formally graded, but I will count your level of participation in these exercises along with your participation in class discussions (e.g.

answering questions posed to the class) in your final grade as indicated above. Due to the short period between the second midterm and the final exam, we will do in-class exercises on specified dates in lieu of an additional homework assignment.

There is no excuse for missing an exam unless there is a documented medical or family emergency. Note that you are required to submit documentation of any emergency. In all other cases, failure to take an exam will result in a zero for that exam. If a legitimate emergency arises, other exams will be re-weighted; no make-up exams will be given. If you foresee any legitimate conflict with the dates of the assignments or exams, please see me at least two weeks beforehand or as soon as possible.

If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes on the material we covered from another classmate. I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but not before you have gone over the material yourself through notes and the textbook.

Homework is due in class at the beginning of lecture on the dates specified. Following a 15-minute grace period, 20% of the points possible will be deducted from your score for every day that the assignment is late (with a zero being the minimum obtainable score). This means that if the assignment is due at 2PM and you turn it in at 3PM and you got 95 out of 100 points possible, your score will be recorded as 75. You may collaborate with your classmates on homework, but each student must submit their own homework and provide the names of any students with which he collaborated on the first page of the assignment. It is important that you demonstrate that you are thinking independently as I will compare your answers to those of other students in the class.

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. In this class, please see me at least two weeks prior to any conflicts due to religious observances. See full details at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Other Policies

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 www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. See policies at www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html
www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_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; 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). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

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 combinations 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 Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>

Economics 4784-001 Tentative Course Outline

Week	Material
1 Jan 15-17	Intro to Economic Development (ch.1, 2) --Measuring economic development. Review of Statistical Methods (Appendix 2)
2 Jan 22-24	Review of Statistical Methods, continued --Interpreting empirical results
3 Jan 29-31	Theories of Economic Growth (ch.3) --Harrod-Domar model. Solow model. --Explaining cross-country income differences. Absolute & conditional convergence.
4 Feb 5-7	Theories of Economic Growth (ch.4) --Human capital and growth --Total Factor Productivity
5 Feb 12-14 Tu Feb 12	Inequality, Development, and Growth (ch.6, 7) --Measuring inequality. Inverted-U hypothesis. Self-perpetuating inequality. HW1 due at beginning of lecture
6 Feb 19-21 Th Feb 21	HW1 Solutions MT1 Review Midterm 1 in class
7 Feb 26-28	Poverty & Development (ch.8) --Measuring poverty --Nutritional poverty trap
8 Mar 4-6	Population & Fertility (ch.9) --Demographic transition. Macro- and micro- inertia of population growth rates. --Externalities within the household. Positive and negative effects of pop. growth.
9 Mar 11-13	Environment --Economic growth & environmental quality --Environmental externalities
10 Mar 18-20	Rural-Urban Interaction (10) --Lewis model of surplus labor. --Harris-Todaro model of rural-urban migration
11 Mar 25-27	No Class—Spring Break
12 Apr 1-3 Tu Apr 1	Agricultural Markets (Ch. 11) --Market imperfections in rural context. Moral hazard. Adverse selection. HW2 due at beginning of lecture
13 Apr 8-10 Th Apr 10	HW2 Solutions MT2 Review Midterm 2 in class
14 Apr 15-17	Land & Labor Markets (Ch. 12 & 13: 12.1-12.3, 13.4) --Sharecropping, Fixed rent, Fixed wage contracts. --Poverty, nutrition, and labor markets
15 Apr 22-24	Credit Markets (Ch. 14: 14.1, 14.2, 14.5) --Formal & Informal credit markets --Alternative credit policies
16 Apr 29- May 1	Final Exam Review In-class exercises

Sat, May 3 **Final Exam 4:30-7PM**