

Syllabus

Microeconomics of Development, Econ 240

Fall 2011

Time: Monday & Wednesday - 1:50 PM to 3:00 PM, Friday - 2:20 PM to 3:20 PM

Classroom: Weitz Center 230

Instructor: Muhammad Faress Bhuiyan

E-mail: fbhuiyan@carleton.edu

Telephone: x4395 (Office)

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Course Description: Structure, performance, and problems of developing economies. We will look at the causes of underdevelopment in developing countries and focus on the reasons for differences between the performances of different countries. Some of the topics covered will include land, labor, credit, and insurance. We will also look at some of the historical, cultural, structural, and institutional reasons for underdevelopment in choice Sub-Saharan and South-East Asian economies. Ultimately the course will take us on a quest to find the causes for underdevelopment in developing countries.

Pre-requisites: Economics 110 and 111

Textbook: Debraj Ray, *Development Economics*, Princeton Press (1998)

Supplemental readings/articles will be required for some chapters. These articles may be discussed during classes and students **will be** tested on the material in the midterm and final examination irrespective of whether it is covered in class.

Course evaluation: Evaluation will be based on one mid-term and one final exam (together worth 60% of your grade), a debate + paper (worth 15% + 15% of your grade), and four assignments (worth 10% of your grade). Students who receive a higher absolute grade in the final will have 40% of the weight assigned to the final and 20% to the midterm. Similarly, students who receive a higher absolute grade in their midterm will have 40% of the weight assigned to the midterm and 20% to the final examination. You will have **at least** a week for each assignment – the due date for the assignment will be indicated on the assignment. If you fail to hand in an assignment, you will receive a score of 0 on that assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted. The worst grade of the problem sets will be dropped. There are no make-up exams in this class. If, for any reason at all, you miss the mid-term exam, the weight of the mid-term exam will go onto the final exam. The dates for the mid-term and final exams are already indicated on the course outline. Please note that the final exam is *cumulative*.

Course Outline:

Ch. 2	Economic Development: Overview
Ch. 8	Poverty and Under-nutrition
Ch. 9	Population Growth and Economic Development
Ch. 10	Rural and Urban Migration
MID-TERM EXAM (Monday October 11, 2010)	
Ch. 12	Land
Ch. 13	Labor
Ch. 14	Credit
Ch. 15	Insurance

FINAL EXAM (cumulative)
Monday November 22, 2010: 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Debate Topic

You will get a verbal explanation of what is required in this debate in class during the first week. You will have between four and six weeks to work on your project.

Readings

* *Required Reading*,
- *Suggested Reading which may be covered in lectures*

Economic Development: Overview

- (1) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 2
- (2) * S. Kuznet's Prize Lecture
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laureates/1971/kuznets-lecture.html
- (3) * *Millennium Development Goals*: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Measures of Development

- (4) * Sagar, A., and A. Najam, 1997 "*The Human Development Index: A Critical Review*"
- (5) - Laderchi, C., Saith, R. and F. Stewart, 2003 "*Does it Matter that we do not Agree on the Definition of Poverty? A Comparison of Four Approaches*"

Poverty and Under-Nutrition

- (6) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 8
- (7) - Schultz, T.P., 2005 "*Productive Benefits of Health*"
- (8) * Banerjee, A. and Esther Duflo, 2007 "*The Economic Lives of the Poor*"

Population Growth and Economic Development

- (9) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 9
- (10) - Oster, E., 2005 "*Hepatitis B and the Case of the Missing Women*"

Migration: Rural to Urban

- (11) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 10
- (12) * Zhang, K. H., and Shunfeng Song, 2003 "*Rural-urban migration and urbanization in China: Evidence from time-series and cross-section analyses*"

Land

- (13) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 12
- (14) * Chaudhuri, A., and P. Maitra, 2002 "*On the Choice of Tenancy Contracts in Rural India*"
- (15) - Deininger, K., and H. Binswanger, 1999 "*The Evolution of the World Bank's Land policy: Principles, Experience, and Future Challenge*"

Labour

- (16) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 13
- (17) * Edmonds, Eric V., and N. Pavcnik, 2005 "*Child Labor in the Global Economy*"

Credit

- (18) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 14
- (19) * Morduch, J., 1999 "*the Microfinance Promise*"
- (20) * Werker, E., and Faisal Ahmed, 2008 "*What Do Nongovernmental Organizations Do?*"

Insurance,

- (21) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 15
- (22) -Udry, C., 1994 "*Risk and Insurance in a Rural Credit Market: An Empirical Investigation in Northern Nigeria*"

Detailed Schedule

Readings

September	Monday 12	Introduction	1,2
	Wednesday 14	Data, Statistics, Graphs	
	Friday 16	Development Indicators	3,4,5
	Monday 19	Poverty & Under-nutrition	6,7,8
	Wednesday 21	Poverty & Under-nutrition	6,7,8
	Friday 23	Pop. Growth & Economic Dev.	9,10
	Monday 26	Pop. Growth & Economic Dev.	9,10
	Wednesday 28	PS 1 Solution	PS 1 due
October	Friday 30	Rural-Urban Migration	11,12
	Monday 3	Rural-Urban Migration	11,12
	Wednesday 5	Rural-Urban Migration	11,12
	Friday 7	PS 2 Solution, Midterm Review	PS 2 due
	Monday 10	MIDTERM (in class)	
	Wednesday 12	Midterm Solution, Land	13,14,15
	Friday 14	Debate 1	
	Wednesday 19	Land	13,14,15
	Friday 21	Debate 2	
	Monday 24	Labor	16
	Wednesday 26	Labor	16,17
	Friday 28	Debate 3	
	Monday 31	Credit	18,19,20 PS 3 due
November	Wednesday 2	Credit	18,19,20
	Friday 4	Debate 4	
	Monday 7	Insurance	21,22
	Wednesday 9	Insurance	21,22
	Friday 11	Debate 5	
	Monday 14	Topic of Interest	PS 4 due
	Wednesday 16	Final Review	
	Sunday 20	FINAL	