Syllabus

Microeconomics of Development, Econ 240
Fall 2012
Time: Monday & Wednesday - 11:10 AM to 12:20 PM, Friday - 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Classroom: Willis 203
Instructor: Muhammad Faress Bhuiyan
E-mail: fbhuiyan@carleton.edu
Telephone: x4395 (Office)
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday 2:30 PM to 3:30 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

Supplemental readings/articles will be required for some chapters. These articles may or may not be discussed during classes. 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 50% of your grade), a debate + paper (worth 20% + 10% of your grade), four quizzes (10% of your grade), and four assignments (worth 10% of your grade). Students who receive a higher absolute grade in the final will have 35% of the weight assigned to the final and 15% to the midterm. Similarly, students who receive a higher absolute grade in their midterm will have 35% of the weight assigned to the midterm and 15% 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 midterm exam, the weight of the midterm 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.

Short 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), Saturday Nov. 17th
**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**

In addition to the reading list mentioned below, I will assign additional reading as I see fit.

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

**Economic Development: Overview**
(1) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 2  
(2) * S. Kuznet’s Prize Lecture  

**Measures of Development**

**Poverty and Under-Nutrition**
(6) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 8  
(7) - Schultz, T.P., 2005 “Productive Benefits of Health”

**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  

**Land**
(13) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 12  

**Labour**
(16) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 13  

**Credit**
(18) * Ray, Debraj, Chapter 14  
(19) * Morduch, J., 1999 “the Microfinance Promise”

**Insurance,**
(21) *Ray, Debraj, Chapter 15  
(22) -Udry, C., 1994 “Risk and Insurance in a Rural Credit Market: An Empirical Investigation in Northern Nigeria”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Monday 10, Wednesday 12, Friday 14, Monday 17</td>
<td>1,2, 3,4,5, 3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 19, Friday 21, Monday 24, Wednesday 26</td>
<td>6,7,8 (Quiz 1), 6,7, 9,10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 17, Wednesday 19, Friday 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Monday 28, Monday 1, Wednesday 3, Friday 5, Monday 8, Wednesday 10, Friday 12</td>
<td>11,12, 11,12 (Quiz 2), 11,12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 15, Monday 8, Wednesday 17, Friday 26</td>
<td>MIDTERM (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 22, Wednesday 24, Friday 29, Wednesday 31</td>
<td>13,14,15, 13,14,15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 17, Friday 19, Monday 29, Wednesday 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 5, Wednesday 7, Friday 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 12, Wednesday 14, Saturday 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Friday 2, Monday 5, Wednesday 7, Friday 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 12, Wednesday 14</td>
<td>PS 4 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday 17</td>
<td>FINAL (3:30 PM to 6:00 PM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>