

Economics of Development

Basics University at Albany, SUNY Spring 2016
Economics of Development, ECO 330 (section 9999)

Class time: 12:35-1:30PM Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
Class location: HU 024

Course website: <http://www.albany.edu/~rossbach/eco330.html>

Instructor Jack Rossbach Office hours: 2:15-3:15PM Wednesday
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Course Description Continuing the tradition of *The Wealth of Nations*, this course will examine the question "Why are rich countries rich and poor countries poor?" Our focus will be on the theoretical, quantitative, and empirical aspects of economic growth and development. We will discuss and apply methods for measuring cross-country inequality and cover methodological issues related to measuring development and the effectiveness of policy reforms. We will touch on historical approaches to development and explore why some countries have experienced tremendous gains in development over the past 30 years while others have remained stagnant.

Assessment Methods

Problem Sets 50%
There will be short assignments based off textbook readings most weeks (20%). In addition, there will be two or three major problem sets/projects (30%) assigned over the semester. ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED (word, latex, mathtype, lyx, etc) and can be submitted in person or online. Assignments will be penalized 10 points each week they are late, and penalized 15 points if they are not typed (out of 100).

In Class Presentation & Participation 20%
Students will work together in a small group setting to create and deliver presentations on topics and case studies relevant to development economics. Students will also be expected to participate in in-class discussions and exercises.

Exams 30%
There will be a midterm (10%) and a cumulative final exam (20%). Students must make arrangements at least a week in advance if they require an alternative time.

Grading Scale A-F with standard cutoffs.

Course Materials Textbook: *Development Economics* by Gerard Roland
Lecture notes and slides will be available on the course website.

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- Topics** **The Rich and the Poor**
Measures of welfare and inequality
- Theories of Economic Growth**
Malthusian growth models, introduction to endogenous growth models
- Structural Change and Development Strategies**
Rural-to-urban migration, sectoral development strategies
- International Aspects of Development**
International trade, economic specialization, protectionism vs export-led growth
- Institutions**
Democracy, corruption, markets and regulation
- Micro-scaled Development Strategies**
Microfinance, randomized controlled trials
- Additional Aspects of Development**
Culture; geography; diseases, disasters, and conflict

Course Goals Following the completion of this course students should

- Understand modern and historic perspectives on development
- Gain familiarity with data sources available for studying economic development
- Have the tools and knowledge to manipulate and interpret data through the lens of the economic models and theories studied in this course

Additional Policies No late work will be accepted following the last day of class.
Exams will be rescheduled only for university approved reasons.

Absences http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicaexcuse.shtml

Academic Integrity http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html