

Economics C171/EnvEcon&Policy C151, Fall 2008

Economic Development

Instructors: Alain de Janvry and David Roland-Holst

GSI: Alan Fuchs and Paul Wassenich

Course Syllabus

Tu & Th, 9.30 to 11 a.m., 101 Morgan Hall

Information about the class, including the course outline and reading list, homework assignments, and past years examinations can be obtained from the course's homepage on the Internet at the following address <http://are.berkeley.edu/courses/EEP151/fall2008/>. Please see the homepage for instructions regarding policies on examinations and grades.

This is a four unit course with three hours of lecture and one hour of discussion per week. You need to sign up for one of the discussion sections through Tele-BEARS. You need to sign up in one section the first time the session is held to be kept on the class list. Sign up sheets will be available in the sections.

Attendance to one discussion section is mandatory. There are four sections scheduled as follows:

Monday, 1-2pm, 2304 Tolman

Monday, 2-3pm, 2312 Tolman

Wednesday, 2-3pm, 2 Evans

Wednesday, 4-5pm, 2062 Valley LSB

Grading of assignments and exams will not be done by each GSI separately, but collectively by the instructors and the two GSIs.

Adding the Course

If you are not in the course but wish to add, you should consult the Economics Department (Phil Walz: phil@econ.berkeley.edu) for Econ 171 and ARE (Gail Vawter: gail@are.berkeley.edu) for EEP 151.

Neither the instructor nor the GSIs have the power to get you registered in the class.

Readings

Class handouts posted on the course webpage before each class

Assigned readings on current issues accessible through the internet

Course description

This course will examine the determinants of underdevelopment, poverty, and environmental damage in developing countries, and analyze alternative strategies to overcome these conditions. Emphasis will be given to the roles attributed to market forces, state interventions, corporations and private firms, and civil society organizations in alternative development strategies. We will analyze the roles of human and capital resources, the contributions of different sectors of the economy to economic growth and the specific functions of agriculture, the expected gains from international trade, the determinants of technological and institutional innovations, and the political economy of government behavior. Specific problems that will be addressed include the formulation of planning models, stabilization and adjustment policies, import substitution and export-led industrialization strategies, project evaluation techniques, the role of agriculture in economic development, land reform and rural development, the behavior of peasant households, the logic of agrarian institutions and grassroots organizations, cooperation and community behavior, and sustainability in the use of natural resources. The course will be issue-oriented but will make rigorous use of the tools and techniques of applied economic analysis.

There will be five exercises. Several exercises require use of a spreadsheet such as Excel and use of the Internet to access information. There will also be five policy briefs consisting in one-page opinion statements about selected current issues.

Prerequisites

Econ 100 A&B, or EEP 100, or consent of instructor. Development Studies students who have satisfied the major's lower division requirements are welcome.

Academic Integrity:

The quality of your educational experience and ultimately that of your degree depend upon academic integrity. Students who are found to submit anything other than their own original written work for any assignment or examination will be given a failing grade in this course. Students who engage in any form

of coercive behavior toward staff or fellow students will be reported to the Committee on Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

Fire Alarm Policy:

A truly annoying bad habit on this campus is the pulling of fire alarms by ill-prepared and selfish students. If the alarm is pulled during an exam, the examination will not be rescheduled. The class will move outside and finish the exam in the allotted time. Students who converse (in any language) during this process will be given a failing grade on the exam.

Requirements

1. Exercises

The five exercises will be due at the following dates:

- Exercise 1: Tuesday, September 16
- Exercise 2: Thursday, October 2
- Exercise 3: Tuesday, October 28
- Exercise 4: Thursday, November 20
- Exercise 5: Thursday, December 4

Exercises will be given to students two weeks before the due date. The text and data for the exercises can be retrieved from the course homepage on the Internet. Answers to the exercises must be typewritten and they must be done individually. Late exercises will be discounted at the rate of 2 points per day.

2. Policy briefs

There will be five one-page briefs to be handed out in response to questions raised in class and short readings assigned for this purpose which are in the Reader or on the Homepage. Policy briefs will be given to students one week before the due date. Briefs should be typewritten. They can be done by teams of two or individually. Due dates are as follows:

- Policy Brief 1: Thursday, September 4
- Policy Brief 2: Tuesday, September 23
- Policy Brief 3: Thursday, October 9
- Policy Brief 4: Thursday, November 6
- Policy Brief 5: Tuesday, November 25

Late policy briefs will be discounted at the rate of 0.5 points per day.

3. Examinations

There will be a mid-term and a final examination at the following dates:

- Mid-term examination: Tuesday, October 21, 9.30-11am
- Final examination (exam group 7): Tuesday, December 16, 8-11am

These exams are on fixed dates and there will be no make-ups. Do not enroll in the course if you cannot attend these exams as scheduled. See policy on exams on the homepage.

Review questions will be handed out no less than a week before the examinations. An evening review session will be held by the instructors before each examination.

4. What you are expected to know for the examinations

International economic development is an area of knowledge that is particularly vast. It is consequently important to be quite specific as to what we expect you to know for the examinations. Here is it:

1. Have studied your class notes.
2. Have studied the handouts.
3. Have read the assigned readings.
4. Recall what you will have learned from the Policy Briefs and the Exercises.

To help you prioritize this information, we will give you review questions before both mid-term and final examinations. You can see past review questions and examinations on the course homepage for 2007.

5. Grades

The grade for the course will be based on the following components:

- 32% Homeworks: five, of which the four best will count for 8 percent each.
- 8% Policy briefs: five, of which the four best will count for 2 percent each
- 20% Mid-term examination (in class, 1h20').

40% Final examination (exam group 7, 3 hours).

You can see the distribution of grades for the 2007 class on the homepage.

Office hours

Alain: Giannini Hall 211, Fri 4-5.30 pm.

David: Giannini Hall 338, Tue 12-1:30PM

Alan: Giannini Hall 305, Tue 3:00-4:00PM, Wed 5:30-6:30PM

Paul: Giannini Hall 248 (Giannini Library), Mon 10:30-11:30AM, Thu 1:30-2:30PM

E-mail addresses

Alain: "Alain de Janvry" <alain@are.berkeley.edu>

David: "David Roland-Holst" <dwrh@are.berkeley.com>

Alan: "Alan Fuchs" <fuchs.gsi@gmail.com>

Paul: "Paul Wassenich" <wassenichGSI@gmail.com>