

Economics C171/EnvEcon&Policy C151, Fall 2009

Economic Development

Instructor: Alain de Janvry

GSI: Negar Ghobadi and Gianmarco Leon

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

Course Syllabus

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/fall2009/>. Please see the homepage for instructions regarding policies on class behavior, 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 person 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, 2301 Tolman
Wednesday, 2-3pm, 2308 Tolman
Wednesday, 4-5pm, 243 Dwinelle

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 it, you should consult the Economics Department (Jennifer Cornet: jenny@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 authority to get you registered in the class.

Readings

Chapters to be read will be posted on the course webpage before each class
Assigned readings on current issues will be accessible through the internet

Course learning goals and description

This course has the following learning goals:

- Apply the tools of economic analysis to problems of growth, poverty, and environmental sustainability in developing countries.
- Understand (1) why some poor countries have been catching up with the industrialized countries in per capita income, while others are increasingly lagging behind, (2) why half of humanity remains poor, and (3) why environmental degradation and resource exhaustion are commonly associated with income growth.
- Understand what can be done to promote development through policy and investment projects, and learn to analyze the economic, social, and environmental impacts of specific initiatives.
- Use data to conduct your own development analyses such as growth diagnostics, poverty assessments, and environmental impact and learn to prepare the corresponding reports for international development agencies.

The course will look at 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.

Requirements

1. Exercises

The five exercises will be due at the following dates:

Exercise 1: Tuesday, September 15

Exercise 2: Thursday, October 1

Exercise 3: Tuesday, October 27

Exercise 4: Thursday, November 19

Exercise 5: Thursday, December 3 (review)

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 out of 8.

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 3

Policy Brief 2: Tuesday, September 22

Policy Brief 3: Thursday, October 8

Policy Brief 4: Thursday, November 5

Policy Brief 5: Tuesday, November 24

Late policy briefs will be discounted at the rate of 0.5 points per day out of 2.

3. Examinations

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

Mid-term examination: Tuesday, October 20, 9.30-11am (in class)

Final examination (exam group 7): Tuesday, December 15, 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 instructor 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 chapters.
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 2008.

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% each.

8% Policy briefs: five, of which the four best will count for 2% 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 2008 class on the homepage.

Office hours

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

Negar: Thursday 2:00-4:00pm. in the Giannini Library.

Gianmarco: Monday 3:00pm.-4:00pm. and Tuesday 2:30pm.-3:30pm. in 308 Giannini Hall.

E-mail addresses

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