

IN PROGRESS
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS 505

January 1, 2017

Spring 2017
Professor J. H. McDermott
Office: 452i // Phone: 803. 777. 4939
University of South Carolina
email: john.mcdermott@moore.sc.edu
web: <http://econintel.org>

In this class we will study the basic theoretical, historical, and empirical concepts of economic development. One focus will be employing basic analytical and data techniques to describe and explain why there is such great disparity in living standards around the world.

Learning Objectives

Why do countries develop, and how do they change as they grow? These questions have occupied thinkers for centuries. The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic elements of the theory of economic development, and to provide a survey of the recent empirical research in this area. The learning objectives are these:

- The student will be able to analyze basic questions concerning economic development theory.
- The student will be able to use empirical methods to answer basic question about development theories.
- The student will be able to discuss the basic literature of economic growth and development.

Class Behavior

Learning in the classroom is a social activity. Some behaviors can be distracting and degrade the ability of others to learn and the professor to teach. Chief among these is the use of laptops, tablets, and mobile phones.

As a result, *please do not use electronic devices of any kind during class unless you are instructed to do so*. I realize that some students prefer to use laptops to take notes, but there is no exception for that activity. There is ample evidence that use of laptops in university classes diminishes performance. Check out this link: [PsycheToday](#). Or this one: [Time](#). Finally, here is a list (also on my website) of other work on this subject: [ListTip](#).

Academic Integrity

All assigned work is expected to represent only the effort of the student (or group) submitting the work. Students are expected to follow the University of South Carolina Honor Code. Anyone suspected of violations of the Code will be referred to the Office for Academic Integrity to decide whether an infraction took place. Penalties will include a 0 on the assignments in question but may be more severe.

Requirements

Evaluations will be based upon the following components weighted by the given percentages.

- Daily Group Quizzes: 10%
- Exam 1 (**February 8, 2017**): 25%
- Exam 2 (**March 22, 2017**): 25%
- Final Exam: 40%

Final course grades are determined using the total points accumulated.

Make-up exams: if you have a **valid excuse**, a make-up exam will be given on Reading Day at 9:00 AM (Exam 1) and 2:00 PM (Exam 2). The make-up exams will be different from the exams given at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss the Final Exam, and have a valid excuse, you will be given an incomplete and the chance to take a different exam on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM.

There will be no extra credit work.

Groups

Groups – generally of three or four members – will be assigned. The only purpose of the group is to take a daily quiz at the end of class. The quiz question will be a question about the material covered that day. Participants in the group will have about 5 minutes to discuss the question, write down their answer, and sign the quiz. If a group member is absent, do not sign for her or him.

Grading scale

- A 90 to 100
- B+ 85 to 89.99
- B 80 to 84.99
- C+ 75 to 79.99
- C 70 to 74.99
- D+ 65 to 69.99
- D 60 to 64.99
- F less than 60

Text and other Materials

There is one textbook, *Economic Growth* (Third Edition) by David Weil . It is available at the Russell House bookstore. In addition, there are readings and other resources that are noted below.

Classroom resources can be found at the textbook webpage.

Approach

Classes will be a combination of lectures and discussion of the material read. The student is encouraged to ask questions about the material and current economic events that affect economic development.

Week 1 Introduction: Technology and Production

1. TEXT: Read Chapters 1 – 2

Week 2: Capital

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 3

Week 3 Solow Growth Model

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 3

Week 4 Population 1

1. TEXT: Read Chapters 4

Week 5 Population 2

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 5

Exam 1 February 8

Week 6 Human Capital

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 6

Week 7 Measuring Productivity

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 7

Week 8 Technology and Growth

1. TEXT: Read Chapters 8 - 9

Spring Break

Week 9 Efficiency

1. TEXT: Read Chapters 10

Week 10 Open Economy & Trade

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 11

Exam 2 March 22

Week 11 Government and Market

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 12

Week 12 Inequality

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 13

Week 13 Culture & Geography

1. TEXT: Read Chapters 14 - 15

Week 14 Environment

1. TEXT: Read Chapter 16

Final Exam April 26 at 12:30 PM

Daily Schedule:

Table 1: CLASS SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Chapter Reading</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Jan 9	1	Ch 1	Introduction	week 1
11	2	Ch 2	Framework	week 1
16				NO CLASS: MLK Day
18	3	Ch 3	Capital	week 2
23	4	Ch 3	Growth Model	week 3
25	5	Ch 3	Growth Model	week3
30	6	Ch 4	Population	week 4
Feb 1	7	Ch 4	Population	week 4
6	8	Ch 5	Population	week 5
8	9			Exam 1
13	10	Ch 6	Human Capital	week 6
15	11	Ch 6	Human Capital	week 6
20	12	Ch 7	Measuring Productivity	week 7
22	13	Ch 7	Growth Accounting	week 7
27	14	Ch 8	Technology	week 8
Mar 1	15	Ch 9	Patents Ideas	Last Day to Drop
6				NO CLASS: Spring Break
8				NO CLASS: Spring Break
13	16	Ch 10	Efficiency	week 9
15	17	Ch 11	International Trade	week 9
20	18	Ch 11	International Trade	week 10
22	19			Exam 2
27	20	Ch 12	Government	week 11
29	21	Ch 12	Government	week 11
Apr 3	22	Ch 13	Inequality	week 12
5	23	Ch 13	Distribution	week 12
10	24	Ch 14	Culture	week 13
12	25	Ch 14	Culture	week 13
17	26	Ch 15	Geography	week 14
19	27	Ch 16	Environment	week 14
24	28	Ch 16	Environment	Last Class
26				FINAL EXAM: 12:30 PM