



Summer Session I - 2014
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
ECON 465: Economic Development

Instructor: Geetha Vaidyanathan

Office: 200H Gardner Hall

Office hours: M, T & W: 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Please take appointment for meeting at other times. Walk-ins are welcome but please do not come during the half hour before class time.

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Pre-requisite: ECON 101, ECON 410

Objective of the course:

More than two billion people live on less than \$2 a day in developing nations. We will discuss the problems faced by the poor in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and other such regions in the world. Poverty, income inequality, human development, health and education issues, Millennium Development Goals, population, underdeveloped capital markets and the consequences for economic growth, microfinance, environmental issues and migration are some of the topics covered in the course. We will also discuss the role of international institutions such as the World Bank, United Nations, and International Monetary Fund to promote economic development in these regions.

Textbook:

“Economic Development” by Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, Eleventh Edition. http://wps.aw.com/aw_todarosmit_econdevlp_11/. There is a free online study guide at this website.

Highly recommended books to read for enrichment:

- **“Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of The Way to Fight Global Poverty” by Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo**
- Mohammed Yunus, “Building Social Business: The New Kind of Capitalism That Serves Humanity's Most Pressing Needs”
- Dani Rodrik, “One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth”

- Paul Collier. “The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It”.
- Dambisa Moyo. “Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa”.
- D. Landes. “The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich & Some So Poor”
- Jeffrey Sachs. “The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time”.
- William Easterly. “The White Man's Burden”
- Joseph E. Stiglitz. “Globalization and Its Discontents”

Tests: There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions, problems, graphs, and short answer questions. If you miss the midterm exams and have a documented reason that is excusable, the weight of your final exam will be increased.

Homework Assignments: I will be assigning a total of nine homework assignments. The purpose of the assignments is to help give you practice to learn the materials. Assignments are always due at the beginning of the class. Homework assignments cannot be submitted via email or in the Economics department office or under my door. Late homework assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 50% for each delayed day. The lowest four homework grades will be dropped. Also, due to the tight schedule of the session, I will be grading only one question in each homework. The question to be graded will be determined by rolling a die or tossing a coin or a similar method. However, I will provide an answer key to help you check your answers.

Readings: Due to the nature of the topics in the course, there will be plenty of readings outside the textbook. Discussion questions will enable you to come prepared for class discussion. Students are expected to do the assigned readings regularly.

Grading: Grades will be determined using the weights and scale defined below:

Weights to be used to determine grades:	
Test 1:	25%
Test 2:	25%
Test 3:	35%
Homework Assignments 5 X 3	15%

Grading Scale:

At least 93%	A
At least 90% but less than 93%:	A-
At least 87% but less than 90%:	B+
At least 83% but less than 87%	B
At least 80% but less than 83%:	B-
At least 77% but less than 80%:	C+
At least 73% but less than 77%:	C
At least 70% but less than 73%:	C-

At least 67% but less than 70%:	D+
At least 63% but less than 67%:	D
At least 60% but less than 63%:	D-
Less than 60%:	F

Grades are earned through the percentage point schedule given above. **No extra credit** of any kind is given to adjust grades at the end of the semester. Percentages are calculated using a spreadsheet software package and results are posted rounded to the first decimal place. Grades are assigned based on these results according to the above scale. **There will be NO “rounding up” to the next grade level.**

Calculators: You will not be allowed to use programmable calculators during exams. Please make sure that you have a basic calculator before your first exam. No exceptions.

Miscellaneous:

- (i) Regular attendance is required for understanding the material and doing well in the course.
- (ii) When you are in class, please pay attention which means no newspapers, laptops, IM, etc.
- (iii) Cheating will not be tolerated. UNC Honor Code will be strictly enforced for all course work. Please refer to honor.unc.edu if you have any questions about the honor code.
- (iv) Please check your grades on blackboard periodically. Any grade related issues have to be settled **within a week** after the test or homework is returned. Please attach a **short petition/note with the test/homework**. Changes will not be made after a week.

Here is a tentative schedule for the course.

I. Economic Growth and Economic Development

Chapters 1 and 2

Wolfers, Justin (2009). “Another Perspective on the Human Development Index”. *New York Times Blog: Freakonomics*. Response from HDRO’s Head of research Francisco Rodriguez. June 1, 2009.

Poor Economics, Chapter 1

II. Poverty and Income Inequality

Chapter 5

Abhijit Banerjee and Ester Duflo, "The Economic Lives of the Poor," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 21, Number 1, Winter 2007, pages: 141-167.

III. Growth theories in Development Economics -

Chapter 3

TEST 1 WILL BE GIVEN ON MAY 22, 2014

- IV. Contemporary Growth theories in Development Economics - Chapter 4**
 Dani Rodrik. “Diagnostics before Prescription,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Volume 24, Number 3, Summer 2010, pages 33-44.
- V. Population Growth and Economic Development - Chapter 6**
- VI. Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration - Chapter 7**
 “Linkages between Internal and International Migrations: Policy Implications for Development” by *Claudia Natali*, *International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Thailand-Office* presented at the Conference on Urban-Rural Linkages and Migration September 16th 2009, Plenary Session 1
- VII. Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development -Chapter 8**
 David Cutler, Angus Deaton, and Adriana Lleras-Muney. 2006. “The Determinants of Mortality,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Volume 20, Number 3, pages 97-120.

MIDTERM TEST 2 WILL BE GIVEN ON JUNE 4, 2014

- VIII. Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development - Chapter 9**
 “Buying Farmland Abroad: Outsourcing’s third wave”, *The Economist*, May 21, 2009
- IFPRI (2003) “How much does it hurt? The impact of agricultural trade policies on developing countries”
- IX. The Environment and Development Chapter 10**
- X. International Trade Theory and Development Strategy Chapter 12**
 Stiglitz, Joseph, 2006. “Social Justice and Global Trade”
<http://pragmatos.net/2006/03/19/stiglitz-social-justice-and-global-trade/>
- XI. Balance of Payments, Developing-Country Debt, and the Macroeconomic Stabilization Controversy Chapter 13**
- XII. Foreign Finance, Investment, and Aid: Controversies and Opportunities Chapter 14**
- XIII. Finance and Fiscal Policy for Development Chapter 15**

FINAL EXAM IS ON JUNE 16, 2014 @ 11:30 a.m.