

# Econ 530: Development Economics

University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2013

**Instructor:** Dr. Erin Kaplan

**Email:** ekaplan@pitt.edu

**Office Hours:** Tues. 2:30 – 3:30  
Thurs. 1:30 – 2:30  
Or by appointment

**Class Times:** M/W 3:00-4:15

**Location:** CL 358

**Office:** Posvar Hall 4918-A

## Course Information

### **Course Description:**

In this course we will cover mathematical models of economic growth, the application of these models to problems facing developing nations, and real-world data both supporting and contradicting these models. By the end of the course students will be expected to demonstrate a broad knowledge of the questions facing contemporary developing nations, as well as the ability to think critically about these questions and potential policy solutions.

### **Course Materials:**

*Textbook:* "Economic Development" 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. By Michael Todaro and Stephen Smith

*CourseWeb:* All assignments and course announcements will be posted on CourseWeb. Please check the course page frequently.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the semester students who successfully complete this course will be able to

1. Explain the meaning of poverty and economic development in a global context.
2. Compare and critique the predictions of the basic models of development.
3. Assess the pros and cons of various macroeconomic policies from the perspective of developing nations.
4. Apply both quantitative and qualitative development models to discuss the importance of population growth, health, education, and governance.
5. Describe the significance of economic, political, historical, geographical, institutional, and environmental factors involved in the development of poor nations.

## Course Policies

### **Attendance:**

Lecture attendance is highly recommended, but does not directly figure into your grade. If absent, you are responsible for obtaining any material discussed or handed out in lecture.

### **Office Hours:**

Students are encouraged to attend office hours to discuss questions about the material covered in lecture. If you have questions but are unable to attend my scheduled office hours, please contact me to set up another time to meet.

### **Cheating and Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct includes the following examples as well as any other similar conduct which is aimed at falsely representing a student's academic performance: cheating, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaborating on course work, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, or intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above.

*If you are caught cheating on an exam or an assignment, you will receive a zero on the exam or assignment.* In addition, the event will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs, may lead additional actions from the University.

### **Use of Electronics:**

The use of cell phones during lectures is a disrespectful distraction to your instructor and other classmates. Use of laptops for activities other than note taking is equally distracting. Please turn your cell phone and other electronic devices off while you are in class. In emergency situations, please discuss limited use of cell phone with me prior to the class during which you would like to use your cell phone.

### **Email:**

In general, email is the best way to get in contact with me. However, if you send me an email within 24 hours of an exam or homework deadline, don't expect me to respond before the exam/due date.

### **Disability Services:**

If you have a disability, please contact me and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

### **Policy on Missed Exams:**

Out of fairness to everyone in the class, exams are only given at the assigned time. If you cannot attend an exam due to a personal emergency outside your control, please let me know *ASAP*.

## Course Grades

### **Discussion Questions (10%)**

Throughout the semester, I will post various articles that are related to the lecture material, along with some basic questions about the articles. You are encouraged to read all of the articles, but you are **required to turn in the posted discussion questions for 6 of the topics in class on the day that they are discussed.** *You must attend class in order to receive credit for this assignment.* Your answers should be short and concise, your own work, and typed. These questions are meant to help you think critically about the article before coming to class.

### **Problem Sets (20%)**

There will be 6 problem sets, each designed to help you review important topics and practice applying the methods taught in class to specific problems. Each assignment will be posted online at least 1 week prior to its due date. Students are encouraged to work in groups on the problem sets; however, each student is individually responsible for completing and turning in the assigned work. One question, chosen at random, will be graded on each problem set. Solutions to all questions will be posted on CourseWeb. No late work will be accepted; however, *your lowest problem set score will be dropped.*

### **Midterms (40%)**

There will be two midterm examinations, so each exam will be worth 20% of your grade. Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions to test your understanding of the material. The exams are tentatively scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Final (30%)**

The final exam will be comprehensive and similar in format to the midterm exams. It will be held from 12:00 – 1:50pm on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

## Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments	
			Problem Sets	Discussion Topics
Jan. 7	<i>No Class: Out of Town</i>			
Jan. 9	Defining Development	Ch. 1		
Jan. 14	Measuring Development	Ch. 2		
Jan. 16	A Brief History of the World			Topic 1
Jan. 21	<i>NO CLASS: MLK JR. DAY</i>			
Jan. 23	Classical Growth Models	Ch. 3		
Jan. 28	Neoclassical Growth Model	Appendix		
Jan. 30	Neoclassical Growth Model	Appendix	PS1 Due	
Feb. 4	Development Accounting			Topic 2
Feb. 6	Contemporary Growth Models	Ch. 4		
Feb. 11	Contemporary Growth Models	Ch. 4	PS2 Due	Topic 3
Feb. 13	<b>Exam 1</b>			
Feb. 18	Income Inequity	Ch. 5		Topic 4
Feb. 20	Population Growth	Ch. 6		Topic 5
Feb. 25	Human Capital: Education	Ch. 8		
Feb. 27	Human Capital: Health	Ch. 8	PS3 Due	Topic 6
Mar. 4	Agriculture and Migration	Ch. 7 & 9		
Mar. 6	Environment and Development	Ch. 10		
Mar. 11	<i>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK</i>			
Mar. 13	<i>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK</i>			
Mar. 18	Environment and Development	Ch. 10		Topic 7
Mar. 20	Governance and Revolution	Ch. 11	PS4 Due	Topic 8
Mar. 25	<b>Exam 2</b>			
Mar. 27	International Trade	Ch. 12		
Apr. 1	International Trade	Ch. 12		Topic 9
Apr. 3	Foreign Exchange & Balance of Payments	Ch. 13		
Apr. 8	Debt and Crisis	Ch. 13	PS5 Due	
Apr. 10	FDI and Aid	Ch. 14		Topic 10
Apr. 15	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	Ch. 15		
Apr. 17	Finance and Microfinance	Ch. 15	PS6 Due	Topic 11
Apr. 25	<b>Final Exam: 2:00-3:50pm</b>			

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced both in class as well as on CourseWeb.