

# **U511605101: Economic Development**

Gakushuin University  
Faculty of International Social Sciences  
Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Kazuki Motohashi (Tufts University)

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**Class Hours:** Wednesday 10:40 AM – 12:10 AM

**Classroom:** Zoom

## **Course Description**

This course is an introductory course on the theories and empirical studies in development economics. The topics covered in the course are theories of economic development, poverty and inequality, population growth and development, urbanization and rural-urban migration, human capital, agriculture and rural development, and environment and development. The course uses one of the popular textbooks on development economics written in English.

## **Course Objectives**

Learn issues related to economic development in developing countries based on theories of development economics and empirical studies.

## **Required Textbook**

M. P. Todaro & S. C. Smith, *Economic Development*, 12th Edition, Pearson, 2014. - **TS**  
You may also purchase an older version.

## **Reference Book**

Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor economics: A radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty*, Public Affairs, 2011.

## **Prerequisites**

This course assumes that students have at least some background in economics, statistics, and econometrics. Therefore, students are recommended to take introductory courses on economics and statistics such as "Statistics," "Data Analysis for Social Sciences," "Microeconomics," and "Macroeconomics" in advance or in the same semester.

## **Course Structure**

This course combines lectures and group discussions. In the lectures, I will go over materials in the textbook according to the course calendar. I will also hold group discussions on important questions related to economic development by using breakout rooms on Zoom, where about five students are randomly assigned to each room. For most class sessions, the required preparation is reading textbook chapters that are covered in each class.

All class meetings will be held on Zoom. The recordings of class meetings will be shared on the Moodle website for this course. All class materials will also be shared on the Moodle website.

## Homework Assignments

This course has homework assignments to expose students to the latest empirical studies that test economic theories covered in this course. Students will be asked to write up four response papers that summarize the research questions, methodologies, and main results of the assignment papers. Some papers I plan to assign include:

- Poverty Trap
  - Haushofer, J., & Shapiro, J. (2016). The short-term impact of unconditional cash transfers to the poor: experimental evidence from Kenya. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(4), 1973-2042.
  - Schofield, H. (2014). The economic costs of low caloric intake: Evidence from India. Mimeo.
- Microfinance
  - Banerjee, A., Duflo, E., Glennerster, R., & Kinnan, C. (2015). The miracle of microfinance? Evidence from a randomized evaluation. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1), 22-53.
- Education
  - Jensen, R. (2010). The (perceived) returns to education and the demand for schooling. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125(2), 515-548.
- Environment and Development
  - Greenstone, M., & Jack, B. K. (2015). Envirodevonomics: A research agenda for an emerging field. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 53(1), 5-42.

## Grading

Class attendance 15%

Response papers 25%

Final Exam 60%

In-class participation + $\alpha$  (up to 15%)

## Class Honor Code

Students are encouraged to form a group and discuss response papers, but the final answers you submit must be worked out by you and written up on your own. The final exam is “closed book/closed notes.”

## Diversity Statement

Diversity and inclusion are central to this course. I believe in the inherent worth of all people, regardless of race and ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, physical and intellectual ability, religion, geographic origin and language background, and socioeconomic status.

**Course Calendar (subject to change)**

<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	9/16, W	Introduction/What is Development Economics? TS: 1
2	9/23, W	Comparative Economic Development TS: 2
3	9/30, W	Theories of Economic Growth and Development 1 TS: 3
4	10/7, W	Theories of Economic Growth and Development 2 TS: 4
5	10/14, W	Poverty, Inequality, and Development 1 TS: 5
6	10/21, W	Poverty, Inequality, and Development 2 TS: 5
7	10/28, W	Population Growth and Economic Development TS: 6
8	11/11, W	Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration TS: 7
9	11/18, W	Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development 1 TS: 8
10	11/25, W	Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development 2 TS: 8
11	12/2, W	Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development TS: 9
12	12/8, W	The Environment and Development 1 TS: 10
13	12/16, W	The Environment and Development 2 TS: 10
14	12/23, W	Review Session
15	1/13, W	<b>Final exam</b>