Information about this course
Mondays and Wednesdays  4:30-5:50 pm

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Teaching Assistant: Afia Khan  
afia@uchicago.edu

Course objective:
The course will introduce students to the main concepts in development economics, such as modern growth theories and their relevance for low-income countries, and major topics in policy and research within the field. In the first part of the course, we will concentrate on development facts, the main explanations highlighted in the field of economics for differences in growth and income levels between rich and poor countries, and the concept and measurement of poverty. In the second part of the course we will study microeconomic fundamentals of economic development. We will concentrate on topics such as fertility, nutrition and health, education, labor markets, intra-household allocation of resources and infrastructure and the relation among them. Empirical evidence from developing economies will be employed extensively paying special attention to the methods used.

Course Materials:

(1) Course slides and videos posted weekly on Canvas

(2) Readings included in this syllabus, available on Canvas or through links.

Requirements:
This course requires class attendance, the completion of three individual assignments, one group assignment and its presentation in class. The weights towards the final grade are as follows:

Individual assignments  30%
Group assignment and class presentation  30%
Final exam  40%

Individual Assignments. There are 3 individual assignments. Each assignment will count towards 10% of your grade. Problem sets (PS) are due on the dates indicated below in the schedule, and before class. No late assignments will be received.
Group Assignments and Presentation. Students will organize themselves in groups of 5 to work on a final assignment and in-class presentation. The class presentation should take 15 minutes or less. Please plan accordingly. This assignment and presentation will count towards 30% of your grade.

Final Exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. All required readings and classes will be included.

Re-Grades. Any item for which there is a re-grade request must be done within 7 days after we return the assignment or exam to you. The request for re-grade MUST be done in writing and attached to the assignment. In such cases, we will re-grade the whole assignment— not just the question you identified. As a result, your grade may be lower.

Classes. Although class attendance does not count towards the final grade, students are encouraged to attend and participate in every class in person and read the assigned materials before each meeting.

Course Outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Wed, Sept 27</td>
<td>Introduction to Economic Development &amp; Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 2</td>
<td>Economic Development – Growth, Solow model</td>
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<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 4</td>
<td>Growth, Solow Model</td>
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<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 9</td>
<td>Country Convergence &amp; Divergence</td>
<td>PS1</td>
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<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 11</td>
<td>Total Factor Productivity - Institutions</td>
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<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 16</td>
<td>Measuring Poverty</td>
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<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 18</td>
<td>Demography</td>
<td>PS2</td>
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<td>Class 8</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 23</td>
<td>Education, Early Childhood- Income Generation</td>
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<td>Class 9</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 25</td>
<td>Education Resources, Outcomes &amp; Provision</td>
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<td>Class 10</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 30</td>
<td>Nutrition – Poverty Traps - Labor Markets</td>
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<td>Class 11</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 1</td>
<td>Nutrition &amp; Labor Markets</td>
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<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Mon, Nov 6</td>
<td>Health, Nutrition and Economic Development</td>
<td>PS3</td>
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<td>Class 13</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 8</td>
<td>Investments in Health</td>
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<td>Class 14</td>
<td>Mon, Nov 13</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 15</td>
<td>Intra-household Allocations</td>
<td>PS 4</td>
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THANKSGIVING WEEK – No Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon, Nov 27</th>
<th>CLASS RESCHEDULED Friday, Dec 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 16</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 17</td>
<td>Fri, Dec 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Dec 6</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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Readings – All readings will be available at the Canvas course website. Readings indicated with * are optional.

**Monday October 2nd Growth – Solow Model**
Solow Model – Production Function – Part 1 Video (in Canvas)
Solow Model – Production Function – Part 2 Video (in Canvas)
De Long, B. (undetermined). “Berkeley Faculty Lunch Talk: Main Themes of Twentieth Century Economic History.”

**Monday October 9th Growth – Convergency or Divergency? Total Factor Productivity**

**Wednesday October 11th Factor Productivity. Institutions**
Acemoglu, D. Institutional Impacts on Economic Growth and Improved Living Standards - Video

**Monday October 16th**
How much poverty? Measurement difficulties

**Wednesday October 18th Demography**
**Monday October 23rd Investments in Human Capital**


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**Wednesday October 25th Education Resources, Outcomes & Provision**


**Provision of Education**


*Ome, A. V. Le and A. Menendez (2014) “Incentives Systems. Literature Review” USAID Reading & Access. NORC at The University of Chicago

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**Monday October 30th Nutrition and Health Labor Markets**


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**Wednesday November 1st Nutrition and Labor Markets**


**Monday November 6th Investments in Health**


Thomas, Duncan, Elizabeth Frankenberg et al. (2003). “Iron Deficiency and the Well-Being of Older Adults: Early Results from a Randomized Nutrition Intervention,” mimeo

**Disease and Investments in Education**


**Monday November 13th Infrastructure**


**Wednesday November 15th Intra-Household Allocation**


**General Resources Available to Students**

- Harris Academic Support Programs and Handbook
- Student Wellness
- University Learning Resources
Harris School and University of Chicago Policies

- Harris School Policies
- University General Policies
- University Academic Policies
- Policies on audio and video recordings and deletion.