

SYLLABUS

Introduction

This course gives an introduction to development economics. The aim is to study the sources of economic growth or lack thereof in poor countries. Both theoretical foundations and empirical evidence will be covered.

Organization

All course materials, assignments and announcements will be posted on the class webpage (see top of page) in pdf format.

Assignments and Grading

There will be six written assignments given during the course. These assignments will involve applying writing and analytic skills, e.g., summarizing information, making an economic argument in favor or against an issue, data analysis, etc. Late submissions of assignments will receive zero credit. No exceptions will be made - if you, for some reason, cannot attend the class or tutorial at which you need to submit your assignment you would need to find someone to submit it for you. There will be also a midterm and a (comprehensive) final exam.

The final course grade will be based on your performance in the problem sets, the midterms, and the final as follows:

- bi-weekly written assignments (total)	40% of the final grade
- mid-term exam	25% of the final grade
- final exam	35% of the final grade

Barring really exceptional circumstances no exam re-takes will be allowed. Students who are not present at an exam must provide a certified note (e.g., from a doctor) clearly stating the reason for their absence.

If I have a reason to believe that a student has cheated on one of the exams I will give this student a grade of F for the course. In addition, such a student would be subject to disciplinary punishment by the Department and the University, including possible expulsion.

Readings

1. Todaro, Michael and Stephen Smith, *Economic Development*, 10th ed., Pearson Addison-Wesley, 2009.
2. Easterly, William, *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*, MIT Press, 2001.

The Easterly book (to be used as supplement to the Todaro textbook in class and tutorials) is also available online (off-campus you will need to login with your SFU email credentials) at:

<http://troy.lib.sfu.ca/record=b5476626~S1a>

Older editions of the Todaro-Smith text may be also usable but do check with the library copy to make sure the material has not changed.

Assigned developing country

For some assignments or exam questions each of you would be assigned a particular developing country. The assigned countries will be posted on the course website on Monday of week 2 of classes, after the course student list is finalized.

Course schedule

The relevant chapters from the textbooks are given in brackets. You are encouraged to read the whole chapters, however for examination purposes you will be only responsible for material covered in the lectures or the tutorials. I will be skipping many sections of the Todaro-Smith book.

Note that the Easterly book chapters are written at a popular level and are therefore short, non-technical, and simply a pleasant read. Thus, do not be intimidated if you see two Easterly book chapters assigned for certain weeks. If material outside the textbooks is covered in class I will try to post notes on the course webpage but you should always plan to attend class and take notes yourself. The schedule below is tentative – deviations from it will most probably occur.

Week 1:

Introduction (Todaro-Smith, ch. 2; Easterly, ch.1 and notes/slides)

Weeks 2-3:

Classical theories of growth and development (Todaro-Smith, ch. 3; Easterly, ch. 2, 3)

Week 4:

New theories of growth and development (Todaro-Smith, ch. 4; Easterly, ch. 8, 10)

Week 5:

Poverty and inequality (Todaro-Smith, ch. 5)

Week 6:

Population growth and development (Todaro-Smith, ch. 6; Easterly, ch. 5)

Week 7:

Urbanization and migration (Todaro-Smith, ch. 7)

Week 8:

Urbanization and migration (Todaro-Smith, ch. 7), continued.

MIDTERM (October 29)

Week 9:

Education and health (Todaro-Smith, ch. 8; Easterly, ch. 4)

Week 10:

Agriculture and development (Todaro-Smith, ch. 9)

Week 11:

Credit and insurance markets and microfinance (Todaro-Smith, ch. 15 and notes)

Week 12:

Institutions and policy (Todaro-Smith, ch. 11; Easterly, ch. 11, 12)

Week 13:

Foreign aid and debt (Todaro-Smith, ch. 14; Easterly, ch. 2, 6, 7)