

EC 350U-001: Economics of Developing Countries (Web) Syllabus

Portland State University Department of Economics
Winter 2021

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Course Objective:

This course will introduce students to the concept and theories of economic development as well as important empirical research in this field. At the completion of this course the students will be able to explain and analyze various issues and policies related to developing economies. The course will also aim at developing a student's analytical, writing and critical thinking skills.

Required Text:

Economics of Development, 7th edition, by Perkins, Radelet, Lindauer and Block. E-book version is cheaper.

You may use the 6th edition, instead, it is cheaper. However, you shall be responsible for figuring out page numbers, etc.

Other required books (selected chapters, posted on D2L):

- "The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time", by Jeffrey Sachs. (Chapters posted on D2L)
- "Understanding Poverty", edited by Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, Roland Bénabou and Dilip Mookherjee. (Chapters posted on D2L)
- "Development as Freedom" by Amartya Sen. (Chapter posted on D2L)

All other readings will be posted on your class webpage on D2L. The comprehensive reading list is provided in the course calendar below.

Students are expected to read **all** assigned readings required for the week.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of quizzes, a short writing assignment, and one final exam.

Grading:

Undergraduate students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance in the following:

Quiz = 20%

Short paper = 40%

Final Exam = 40%

Letter grades will be assigned ONLY at the end of the quarter after the Final Exam according to the following scale:

89 – 100%: A

74-78.9%: B-

59 – 64.9%: C-

84-88.9%: B+

69 – 73.9%: C+

55 – 58.5%: D

79-83.9%: B

65 – 68.9%: C

54.9% or below: F

Below is an example of how you would calculate your final percentage in the course.

Suppose student X receives the following scores:

Quiz Average = 88%; Short paper = 85%;

Final Exam = 80%

What is Student X's final percentage in the course? What letter grade does she get?

Final percentage = $(0.88 \times 0.20 + 0.85 \times 0.40 + 0.80 \times 0.40) = 0.836$ or 83.6%

Letter grade = B

Tentative Course Calendar:

Week	Topics	Readings
Week 1: Jan 4	Introduction and History of Economic Development	- Textbook Chap 1 - Sachs, "The Spread of Economic Prosperity"
Week 2: Jan 11	<i>Concept and Measurement of Development</i> , Quiz 1 due by Friday	- Textbook Chap 2 - Sen, "Introduction"
Week 3: Jan 18	<i>Economic Growth: Concepts and Patterns</i> , Quiz 2 due by Friday	- Textbook Chap 3; - Sachs, "Why Some Countries Fail to Thrive" - Chang, "Lazy Japanese and Thieving Germans"
Week 4: Jan 25	<i>Institutions</i> , Quiz 3 due by Friday Short paper topic and abstract due (on Friday, Jan. 29)	- Textbook Chap 5; - Understanding Poverty Chapters 2, 26 - Basu, "Asian Century" - Sachs, Mellinger and Gallup, "The Geography of Poverty and Wealth"

Week	Topics	Readings
Week 5: Feb 1	Inequality and Poverty Quiz 4 due by Friday	- Textbook Chap 6 - Understanding Poverty: Chap 4 - Narayan, Pritchett, Kapoor, "The Moving out of Poverty Study: Overview"; focus on sections "Meet Three People" (pp 4-7) and "Findings" (pp 18-42), skim through rest.
Week 6: Feb 8	Population and Education, Quiz 5 due by Friday	Textbook Chap 7 and 8 (selected portions) - Understanding Poverty: Chap 10
Week 7: Feb 15	Health, Quiz 6 due by Friday Short Paper Due at the End of this Week (Feb. 19).	- Textbook Chap 9 - Sachs, "The Voiceless Dying: Africa and Disease"
Week 8: Feb 22	Sustainable Development, Quiz 7 due by Friday	- Textbook, Chap 20 - World Development Report 2010 on Climate Change and Development (skim)
Week 9: Mar 1	Trade, Globalization, Quiz 8 due by Friday	- Textbook Chap 19 - Understanding Poverty: Chap 7 - Friedman, Thomas L. "While I was Sleeping" in the World is Flat (outsourcing in India)
Week 10: Mar 8	Foreign Aid Quiz 9 due by Friday Final Exam posted on Friday, Mar 12	- Textbook Chap 14 - Sachs, "Myths and Magic Bullets", "Why We Should Do It?"
Week 11: Mar 15 Finals Week	FINAL EXAM due by Wednesday, Mar 17, 2020, 11.59pm.	Cumulative

Course Activities Details

1. **Quiz:** A short quiz will be given every week on that week's materials. The quiz must be completed by the due date. The quiz is timed and students get two attempts at a quiz.
2. **Short Paper and Presentation:** A short paper on development experience of a developing country will be due in the middle of the term (see course calendar).

The content of the short paper should be as follows:

1. Introduction: Motivation behind selection of the country. Is it a development success story or failure? Brief background/history – not to exceed one page
2. Statistics: Important statistics that indicate development experience of the country, Mention any significant event that may have affected these indicators, e.g. liberalization policies, political instability, wars, etc. – half a page
3. Developmental Strategy: What is that one factor/policy that is the primary development strategy for this country. You need to research on this. Your finding should be related to one of the different topics that we will study in this class (for example, what are the sources of growth, principal factors driving poverty in this particular country, policies, institutions, geography, etc.). – 2 pages
4. Conclusion: Summarize your findings in two or three lines and suggest policies that you think would benefit the country further in future- half a page
5. Reference list
6. Graphs and Tables (not to exceed one page)

Term Paper Format:

I will only accept typed papers uploaded on D2L, either in MS Word or pdf format. Font, 12 pt., 1.5 spacing, 1 inch margin on all sides. Your term paper should not exceed 6 pages (including graphs/tables if any and bibliography), page limit details given above. All references must be listed on the last page under “Bibliography/Reference”.

Term Paper Timeline:

- a. Abstract Submission: You would need to write a paragraph (100-150 words) about your term paper/presentation topic, typed in a word document and upload on D2L in the designated folder by the due date.
- b. Short Paper: Your short paper is due on the day provided in the calendar. You will also upload this on D2L.

Evaluation of Term Paper and Presentation:

The term paper will be graded out of 80 points. Your score will depend on the quality of the paper. This includes originality of your research finding and content (75%) and, grammar, spelling, formatting and timeline (25%). Plagiarism will be severely penalized.

Selected Research Tools/Articles Source for your term paper:

- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/research>
- <http://www.nber.org/>
- <http://scholar.google.com>

Final Exam:

The final exam is cumulative.

Make up/Extra credit: No make-up quiz, assignments or exam is offered. No extra-credit assignments are offered.

Portland State University Policies:

- Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.
- Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center are responsible for contacting me prior to, or during, the first week of term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.
- I strictly follow the Academic Honesty policy. Students suspected of academic dishonesty in this course will be handled according to the procedures set out in the Student Code of Conduct.

Disclaimer. The instructor preserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the term. Students will be notified of any such modifications and a revised syllabus will be posted on the class homepage (D2L).