Syllabus: Economic Development

Professor Julia Schwenkenberg
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Course Time and Location
Monday 2:30-3:50pm Wednesday 1:00-2:20 pm
HIL 101

Description:
This course gives an introduction to macro and micro development issues and theories. We will begin by studying macroeconomic data on per capita income, inequality and poverty around the world. Then we learn about theories of economic growth and determinants of income levels based on these theories.

We then shift our focus to microeconomic issues in development economics. How do the poor actually live? What can be done to lift people out of poverty? How do we know whether a policy is working? We will study issues like nutrition and education, and learn about financial markets and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

By the end of the course you will have learned the most important issues in development economics and come to understand the difficulties in designing policies to help the poor.

The course outline below gives an overview of the course. You are expected to attend class, complete the readings and assignments, and check blackboard for updates.

Books:

The Great Escape
Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality
Angus Deaton

Poor Economics
A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty
by Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo
Exams

Requirements, Grading and Class Policies

Midterm I (February 27): 30%
Midterm II (April 10): 30%
Final Exam (May 13): 40%

Make-ups are for emergencies only. If you are unable to attend one of the exams you MUST have a verifiable excuse (a doctor’s note) and let me know BEFORE the exam takes place, otherwise you will get a 0% for the exam.

This is how letter grades will be assigned:
86-100 A
80-85 B+
70-79 B
65-69 C+
50-64 C
40-49 D
0-39 F

***Grading is non-negotiable and there is no extra credit***

It is your responsibility to be in class and check blackboard regularly for course materials and announcements. There will be regular assignments. Assignments are not graded. Assignments are important for you to learn and practice for the exams. They will be discussed in class and you are expected to have completed the assignments before class. Class participation will be considered for marginal grades.

Please note the University’s policy on academic integrity:
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu

To sign up for academic coaching go here:
https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center/academic-coaching
Course Outline:

1. Introduction to Economic Development
   - The UN's Human Development Report
   - The World Bank on poverty

   Chapter 1 [The Great Escape]

2. Escaping Death

   Chapter 3 [The Great Escape]

3. Economic Growth

   Chapter 6 [The Great Escape]

4. Poverty Traps and Foreign Aid

   Chapter 7 [The Great Escape]

W Feb. 27

MIDTERM I

M March 4
W March 6

5. Poverty Traps and Social Experiments

   *Chapter 1 in [Poor Economics].

6. Consumption and Nutrition

   *Chapter 2 in [Poor Economics].

M March 11
W March 13

SPRING BREAK

M March 25
W March 27

7. Health

   *Chapter 3 in [Poor Economics]
8. **Education**  
*Chapter 4 in [Poor Economics].

9. **Politics (time permitting)**  
*Chapter 10 in [Poor Economics].

**MIDTERM II**

10. **Insurance**  
*Chapter 6 in [Poor Economics].

11. **Credit**  
*Chapter 7 in [Poor Economics].

12. **Savings**  
*Chapter 8 in [Poor Economics].

13. **Entrepreneurship**  
*Chapter 9 in [Poor Economics].

**FINAL**