

220:339:01 Economic Development Fall 2020 Department of Economics,
Rutgers-Newark

**Syllabus: Economic
Development**

Professor Julia Schwenkenberg

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Forma

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ynchronous/asynchronous online

**Schedul
ed
Course
Time**

gs: Tuesdays

11:30 am –

**Cours
e**

Video lectures, readings, assignments, o
Canvas.

Optional: ZOOM office hour: Thursdays
11:30-12:45pm

*Please see the course calendar for exceptions to the schedule and for
assessment dates.*

Canvas Site

<https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/83349>

Books The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality

By Angus Deaton

<https://scholar.princeton.edu/deaton/great-escape>

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

<https://www.publicaffairsbooks.com/titles/abhijit-banerjee/poor->

economics/9781610391603/

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.

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Learning Goals • Learn about important issues in development economics

- Learn about trends in well-being and income and how to measure them
- Understand basic models of economics growth
- Strengthen quantitative reasoning skills
- Begin to critically assess how models and policies perform in the real world
- Introduction to social policy experiments in development economics
- Understand the difficulties in designing policies to help the poor.

Grading Quizzes: 40 %

Exams: 50 % Attendance: 10 %

This is how letter grades will be assigned: 90-100 A 85-89 B+ 75-84 B 70-74 C+ 60-69 C 50-59 D 0-49 F ***There is no extra credit***

Academic Integrity *As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of*

knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

Policies Exams: There are two exams, a midterm (October 13 during class time) and

a final (University final exam period). These are held during the designed times on

Canvas. Exams consist of a mix of short answer, open-ended long answer questions and calculations/ math problems based on the material and assignments covered. 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.

220:339:01 Economic Development Fall 2020 Department of Economics,
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Quizzes: There will be weekly/ biweekly quizzes, about 7-9, posted on Canvas. These are multiple choice or short answer and based on lectures, class discussions, readings, and assignments. Your lowest Quiz grade will be dropped. There are no make-ups.

Attendance: is taken for required class meetings/ discussions usually scheduled on Tuesdays. Attendance for class time set aside for Q&A is not mandatory, usually Thursdays. Mandatory dates are underlined below and noted on the Canvas course schedule.

Tentative schedule — check Canvas for updates and assignment deadlines!

Wk Dates Module

1 **T Sep. 1** **R Sep. 3**

Introduction to Economic Development The UN's Human Development Report
Chapter 1 [The Great Escape]

2 **R Sep. 10**

Introduction to Economic Development The UN's Human Development Report
Chapter 1 [The Great Escape]

3 **T Sep. 15** **R Sep. 17**

Escaping Death Chapter 3 [The Great Escape]

4 **T Sep. 22**

R Sep. 24 **Economic Growth**

5 **T Sept. 29**

R Oct. 1 **Economic Growth**

6 **T Oct. 6** **R Oct. 8**

Economic Growth Chapter 6 [The Great Escape]

220:339:01 Economic Development Fall 2020 Department of Economics,
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7 **T Oct. 13**

R Oct. 15 **MIDTERM**

8 **T Oct. 20** R Oct. 22

Poverty Traps, Aid, and Social Experiments

Chapter 7 [The Great Escape] *Chapter 1 in [Poor Economics].

9 **T Oct. 27** R Oct. 29

Consumption and Nutrition *Chapter 2 in [Poor Economics]

10 **T Nov. 3** R Nov. 5

Health *Chapter 3 in [Poor Economics]

11 **T Nov. 10** R Nov. 12

Education *Chapter 4 in [Poor Economics]

12 **T Nov. 17** R Nov. 19

Insurance *Chapter 6 in [Poor Economics]

13 **T Nov. 24** R Nov. 26

Credit *Chapter 7 in [Poor Economics]

THANKSGIVING

14 **T Dec. 1** R Dec. 3

Savings *Chapter 8 in [Poor Economics].

15 **T Dec. 8**

R Dec. 10

Entrepreneurship *Chapter 9 in [Poor Economics].

FINAL EXAM PERIOD SCHEDULE TBD **FINAL EXAM**