

ARE/ECN 215B: MACROECONOMICS OF DEVELOPMENT

1 Administration

- **Instructor:**
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OH: by appointment
- **Lectures:**
Monday and Wednesday 2:10–4PM
Location: Hutchinson 102
- **Course website:**
<https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/courses/797866>

2 Course Description

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of large-scale questions in development economics and economic geography as well as an introduction to non-experimental empirical methods. Even if you do not directly study the topics from this course in your research, I hope it will provide context to understand the broader implications of micro studies.

This course generally addresses the question of why some countries are rich and others are poor. We will start by quantifying the scope of the unexplained variation, and then examine causes relating to geography and historical legacy. We will then turn to more proximate features of the allocation of capital, use of land, specialization in production, and geography of labor markets within countries. We will devote specific focus to regular patterns in how the sectoral and geographic distribution of population evolves as countries get richer. Finally, the course will address household finance, cross-sectional inequality, and the allocation of risk in general equilibrium.

The literature in this course will use a mix of reduced form and structural empirical methods. Due to the scale of the topics, it is generally infeasible to run randomized evaluations. Empirical work will use a mix of natural experiments, model-driven tests of economic predictions, and estimation of structural parameters. I hope you will come away from the course with an expanded tool set to answer questions when experiments are not possible.

This course is designed for second-year Ph.D. students in ARE and Economics. Prerequisites for this course are 200C and 215A or the equivalent. Please see the instructor if you have not completed these courses.

3 Notice of the Academic Code of Conduct and Additional Student Resources

This course is bound by the university's Code of Academic Conduct. Note that it is a violation of the Code to post materials from this course on other websites or forums without the permission of the professor. Full text of the Code can be found at <https://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/cac.pdf>.

Additional student resources related to academic support, health & wellness, career options, and the campus community are available at <https://ebeler.faculty.ucdavis.edu/resources/faq-student-resources>, also linked from the course website.

4 Course Requirements

Over the course of this quarter, there will be four written assignments designed to help you formulate a research idea for your prospectus. In addition, there will be regular assignments related to the readings and a final exam designed to test your understanding of the topics covered, as well as. Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the assignments, the final exam, and in-class participation.

5 Readings

There is no main textbook for this class. Readings for each topic are listed below. You are requested to carefully read the double-starred reading and be familiar with each of the starred readings in advance of the lecture topic, and many times there will be a short written assignment related to the readings. Other references are suggested for further understanding.

5.1 Measurement

5.2 Data and Analysis

Acemoglu, D., S. Johnson, and J. Robinson. 2002. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in The Making of the Modern World Income Distribution," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117(4): 1231–94.

Aguiar, M. and E. Hurst. 2005. "Consumption versus Expenditure," *Journal of Political Economy* 113(5): 919–48.

Angrist, N., P. K. Goldberg, and D. Jolliffe. 2021. "Why is Growth in Developing Countries So Hard to Measure?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 35(3): 215–42.

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- Chetty, R. and A. Looney. 2006a. "Consumption smoothing and the welfare consequences of social insurance in developing economies," *Journal of Public Economics* 90: 2351–6.
- Chetty, R. and A. Looney. 2006b. "Income risk and the benefits of social insurance: Evidence from Indonesia and the United States," NBER Working Paper 11708.
- *Deaton, A. 2005. "Measuring poverty in a growing world (or measuring growth in a poor world)," *Review of Economics and Statistics* 87(1): 1–19.
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- Deaton, A. and A. Heston. 2010. "Understanding PPPs and PPP-based national accounts," *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 2(4): 1–35.
- Dollar, D. and A. Kraay. 2002. "Growth is good for the poor," *Journal of Economic Growth*, 7(3): 195–225.
- Henderson, J., A. Storeygard, and D. Weil. 2012. "Measuring Economic Growth from Outer Space," *American Economic Review* 102(2): 994–1028.
- Jerven, M. 2013. "Comparability of GDP estimates in Sub-Saharan Africa: The effect of revisions in sources and methods since structural adjustment," *Review of Income and Wealth* 59(SI): S16–36.
- Jerven, M. 2014. "The political economy of agricultural statistics and input subsidies: Evidence from India, Nigeria and Malawi," *Journal of Agrarian Change* 14(1): 129–43.
- Johnson, S., W. Larson, C. Papageorgiou, and A. Subamanian. 2013. "Is newer better? Penn World Table Revisions and their impact on growth estimates," *Journal of Monetary Economics* 60: 255–74.
- Ligon, E. 2019. "Estimating Welfare from Disaggregate Expenditures," unpublished manuscript.
- Meyer, B.D., W.K.C. Mok, and J.X. Sullivan. 2015. "Household surveys in crisis," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29(4): 199–226.
- *Pinkovsky, M. and X. Sala-i-Martin. 2016. "Lights, camera...income! Illuminating the national accounts–household surveys debate," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(2): 579–631.
- Ravallion, M. 2001. "Growth, inequality and poverty: Looking beyond averages," *World Development* 29(11): 1803–15.
- Ravallion, M. 2003. "Measuring aggregate welfare in developing countries: How well do national accounts and surveys agree?" *Review of Economics and Statistics* 85(3): 645–52.
- Sen, A. 1976. "Poverty: An ordinal approach to measurement," *Econometrica* 44(2): 219–31.
- Srinivasan, T.N. 1994. "Data base for development analysis: An overview," *Journal of Development Economics* 44: 3–27.
- *Young, A. 2012. "The African growth miracle," *Journal of Political Economy* 120(4): 696–739.
- Zheng, B. 1997. "Aggregate poverty measures," *Journal of Economic Surveys* 11(2): 123–62.

5.2.1 External Validity

- Allcott, H. 2015. "Site Selection Bias in Program Evaluation," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130(3): 1117–65.
- *Al-Ubaydli, O., J. List, and D. Suskind. 2019. "The Science of Using Science: Towards an Understanding of the Threats to Scaling Experiments," Becker Friedman Institute Working Paper 2019–73.
- Andrews, I. and M. Kasy. 2019. "Identification of and Correction for Publication Bias," *American Economic Review* 109(8): 2766–94.
- Banerjee, A., S. Chassang, and E. Snowberg. 2017. "Decision Theoretic Approaches to Experiment Design and External Validity," in A. Banerjee and E. Duflo, eds., *Handbook of Economic Field Experiments Vol. 1*, Elsevier Press: 141–74.
- Bold, T., M. Kimenyi, G. Mwabu, A. Ng'ang'a, and J. Sandefur. 2018. "Experimental evidence on scaling up education reforms in Kenya," *Journal of Public Economics* 168: 1–20.
- Broderick, T., R. Giordano, and R. Meager. 2020. "An Automatic Finite-Sample Robustness Metric: Can Dropping A Little Data Change Conclusions?," unpublished manuscript.
- Cunha, J., G. de Giorgi, and S. Jayachandran. 2019. "The Price Effects of Cash versus In-Kind Transfers," *Review of Economic Studies* 86: 240–81.
- Chassang, S., G. Padó I Miquel, and E. Snowberg. 2012. "Selective Trials: A Principal-Agent Approach to Randomized Controlled Experiments," *American Economic Review* 102(4): 1279–1309.
- *DellaVigna, S. and E. Linos. 2022. "RCTs to Scale: Comprehensive Evidence from Two Nudge Units," *Econometrica* 90(1): 81–116.
- Muralidharan, K. and P. Niehaus. 2017. "Experimentation at Scale," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 31(4): 103–24.
- *Meager, R. 2019. "Understanding the Average Impact of Microcredit Expansions: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of Seven Randomized Experiments," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 11(1): 57–91.
- Pritchett, L. and J. Sandefur. 2015. "Learning from Experiments When Context Matters," *American Economic Review* 105(5): 471–75.
- *Rosenzweig, M. and C. Udry. 2020. "External validity in a stochastic world: Evidence from low-income countries," *Review of Economic Studies* 87(1): 343–81.
- Usmani F., M. Jeuland, and S. Pattanayak. 2018. "NGOs and the effectiveness of interventions," WIDER Working Paper Series 2018-59.
- *Vivalt, E. 2020. "How Much Can We Generalize From Impact Evaluations?," *Journal of the European Economic Association* 18(6): 3045–89.

5.3 Development Accounting

- **Caselli, F. 2005. "Accounting for cross-country income differences" in P. Aghion and S.N. Durlauf, eds., *Handbook of Economic Growth Vol. 1*, Elsevier Press: 679–741.

- *Caunedo, J. and E. Keller. 2021. “Capital Obsolescence and Agricultural Productivity,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136(1): 505–61.
- Hanushek, E. and D. Kimko. 2000. “Schooling, Labor Force Quality, and the Growth of Nations,” *American Economic Review* 90(5): 1184–208.
- Hanushek, E. and L. Woessmann. 2012. “Do better schools lead to more growth? Cognitive skills, economic outcomes, and causation,” *Journal of Economic Growth* 17: 267–321.
- Johnson, P. and C. Papageorgiou. 2020. “What Remains of Cross-Country Convergence?,” *Journal of Economic Literature* 58(1): 129–75.
- Jones, B.F. 2014. “The human capital stock: A generalized approach,” *American Economic Review* 104(11): 3752–77.
- Kehrig, M. and N. Vincent. 2021. “The Micro-Level Anatomy of the Labor Share Decline,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136(2): 1031–87.
- Klenow, P.J. and A. Rodriguez-Clare. 1997. “The neoclassical revival in growth economics: Has it gone too far?” in Bernanke, B.S. and J.J. Rotemberg, eds., *NBER Macroeconomics Annual 1997, Vol. 12* NBER Books: 73–103.
- Kremer, M. 1993. “The O-ring theory of economic development,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 108(3): 551–75.
- *Lagakos, D., B. Moll, T. Porizo, N. Qian, and T. Schoellman. 2018. “Life-cycle wage growth across countries,” *Journal of Political Economy* 126(2): 797–849.
- Mankiw, N.G., D.N. Romer, and D. Weil. 1992. “A contribution to the empirics of economic growth,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107(2): 407–37.
- *Patel, D., J. Sandefur, and A. Subramanian. 2021. “The new era of unconditional convergence,” *Journal of Development Economics* 152.
- Rossi, F. 2022. “The Relative Efficiency of Skilled Labor across Countries: Measurement and Interpretation,” *American Economic Review* 112(1): 235–266
- Weil, D.N. 2014. “Health and economic growth,” in P. Aghion and S.N. Durlauf, eds., *Handbook of Economic Growth Vol. 2*, Elsevier Press: 623–82.
- Young, A. 1995. “The Tyranny of Numbers: Confronting the Statistical Realities of the East Asian Growth Experience,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 110: 641–80.

5.3.1 Methods: Estimating Production Functions

- *Akerberg, D.A., K. Caves, and G. Frazer. 2015. “Identification Properties of Recent Production Function Estimators,” *Econometrica* 83(6): 2411–51.
- Gandhi, A., S. Navarro, and D. Rivers. 2020. “On the Identification of Gross Output Production Functions,” *Journal of Political Economy* 128(8): 2973–3016.
- J. Levinsohn and A. Petrin. 2003. “Estimating Production Functions Using Inputs to Control for Unobservables,” *Review of Economic Studies* 70(2): 317–41.
- G.S. Ollie and A. Pakes. 1996. “The Dynamics of Productivity in the Telecommunications Equipment Industry,” *Econometrica* 64(6): 1263–97.
- Shenoy, A. 2021. “Estimating the Production Function under Input Market Frictions,” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 103(4): 666–79.

5.4 History and Institutions

- ^{**}Acemoglu, D., S. Johnson, and J.A. Robinson. 2001. “The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation,” *American Economic Review* 91(5): 1369–401.
- *Acemoglu, D., S. Naidu, P. Restrepo, and J. Robinson. 2019. “Democracy Does Cause Growth,” *Journal of Political Economy* 127(1): 47–100.
- Banerjee, A.V. and L. Iyer. 2005. “History, institutions, and economic performance: The legacy of colonial land tenure systems in India,” *American Economic Review* 95(4): 1190–213.
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- *Dell, M. 2010. “The persistent effects of Peru’s mining mita,” *Econometrica* 78(6): 1863–903.
- Dell, M., N. Lane, and P. Querubin. 2015. “State capacity, local collective action, and economic development in Vietnam,” *Econometrica* 86(6) 2083–121.
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- Guiso, L., P. Sapienza, and L. Zingales. 2016. “Long-Term Persistence,” *Journal of the European Economics Association* 14(6): 1401–36.
- Hall, R.E. and C.I. Jones. 1999. “Why do some countries produce so much more output per worker than others?”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114(1): 83–116.
- Lowes, S. and E. Montero. 2021. “Concessions, Violence, and Indirect Rule: Evidence from the Congo Free State,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136(4): 2047–91.
- Lowes, S. and E. Montero. 2021. “The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa,” *American Economic Review* 111(4): 1284–1314.
- Michalopoulos, S. and E. Papaioannou. 2013. “Pre-colonial ethnic institutions and contemporary African development,” *Econometrica* 81(1): 113–52.
- Nunn, N. 2008. “The long-term effects of Africa’s slave trades,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(1): 139–76.
- Oto-Peralias Romero-Avila. 2014. “The distribution of legal traditions around the world: A contribution to the legal origins theory,” *Journal of Law and Economics* 57(3): 561–628.

5.4.1 Management and Governance

- Acemoglu, D., T. Reed, and J. Robinson. 2014. “Chiefs: Economic Development and Elite Control of Civil Society in Sierra Leone,” *Journal of Political Economy* 122(2): 319–68.
- *Bloom, N., B. Eifert, A. Mahajan, D. McKenzie, and J. Roberts. 2013. “Does Management Matter? Evidence from India,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128(1): 1–51.

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- Kosfeld, M. and D. Rustagi. 2015. “Leader Punishment and Cooperation in Groups: Experimental Field Evidence from Commons Management in Ethiopia,” *American Economic Review* 105(2): 747–83.

5.5 Geography

5.5.1 Weather and Climate

- *Burke, M., S.M. Hsiang, and E. Miguel. 2015. “Global non-linear effect of temperature on economic production,” *Nature* 527: 235–39.
- Dell, M., B.F. Jones, and B.A. Olken. 2012. “Temperature shocks and economic growth: Evidence from the last half century,” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 4(3): 66–95.
- Dell, M., B.F. Jones, and B.A. Olken. 2014. “What do we learn from weather? The new climate-economy literature,” *Journal of Economic Literature* 52(3): 740–98.

5.5.2 Disease and Health

- Alsan, M. 2015. “The Effect of the TseTse Fly on African Development,” *American Economic Review* 105(1): 382–410.
- Bleakley, H. 2007. “Disease and development: Evidence from hookworm eradication in the American South,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122(1): 73–117.
- *Bleakley, H. 2010. “Malaria eradication in the Americas: A retrospective analysis of childhood exposure,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2: 1–45.

5.5.3 Resource Curse

- Allcott, H. and D. Keniston. 2018. “Dutch Disease or Agglomeration? The Local Economic Effects of Natural Resource Booms in Modern America,” *Review of Economic Studies* 85(2): 695–731.
- Blattman, C., J. Hwang, and J. Williamson. 2007. “Winners and losers in the commodity lottery: The impact of terms of trade growth and volatility in the Periphery 1870–1939,” *Journal of Development Economics* 82: 156–79.
- Caselli, F. and G. Michaels. 2013. “Do Oil Windfalls Improve Living Standards? Evidence from Brazil,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 5(1): 208–38.

- Gadenne, L. 2017. "Tax Me, but Spend Wisely? Sources of Public Finance and Government Accountability," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 9 (1): 274–314.
- James, A. 2015. "The resource curse: A statistical mirage?" *Journal of Development Economics* 114(C): 55–63.
- Martinez, L. 2023. "Natural Resource Rents, Local Taxes and Government Performance: Evidence from Colombia ," *Review of Economics and Statistics* , forthcoming.
- Sachs, J. and A. Warner. 1999. "The Big Rush, Natural Resource Booms and Growth," *Journal of Development Economics* 29(1): 43–76.

5.5.4 Conflict

- **Berman, N., M. Couttenier, D. Rohner, and M. Thoenig. 2017. "This Mine Is Mine! How Minerals Fuel Conflicts in Africa," *American Economic Review* 107(6): 1564–610.
- Dal Bó, E. and P. Dal Bó. 2011. "Workers, Warriors, and Criminals: Social Conflict in General Equilibrium," *Journal of the European Economic Association* 9(4): 646–77.
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- *McGuirk, E. and M. Burke. 2020. "The Economic Origins of Conflict in Africa," *Journal of Political Economy* 128(10): 3940–97.
- *Sanchez de la Sierra, R. 2020. "On the Origin of the State: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo," *Journal of Political Economy* 128(1).

5.5.5 Methods: Shift-Share Instruments

- Adão, R., M. Kolesár, and E. Morales. 2019. "Shift-Share Designs: Theory and Inference," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134(4): 1949–2010.
- *Borusyak, K. and P. Hull. 2021. "Non-Random Exposure to Exogenous Shocks," unpublished manuscript.
- *Borusyak, K., P. Hull, and X. Jaravel. 2022. "Quasi-Experimental Shift-Share Research Designs ," *Review of Economic Studies* 89(1): 181–213.
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- Jaeger, D., J. Ruist, and J. Stuhler. 2018. "Shift-Share Instruments and the Impact of Immigration," IZA DP No. 11307.

5.5.6 Methods: Two-Way Fixed Effects

- Abadie, A. 2021. "Using Synthetic Controls: Feasibility, Data Requirements, and Methodological Aspects," *Journal of Economic Literature* 59(2): 391–425.
- Arkhangelsky, D., S. Athey, D. Hirshberg, G. Imbens, and S. Wagner. 2021. "Synthetic Difference in Differences," *American Economic Review* 111(12): 4088–118.
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- de Chaisemartin, C. and X. D’Haultfœuille. 2020. “Two-Way Fixed Effects Estimators with Heterogeneous Treatment Effects,” *American Economic Review* 110(9): 2964–96.
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- Sun, L. and S. Abraham. 2021. “Estimating dynamic treatment effects in event studies with heterogeneous treatment effects,” *Journal of Econometrics* 225(2): 175–99.

5.6 Capital Allocation

5.6.1 Misallocation

- *Asker, J., A. Collard-Wexler, and J. de Loecker. 2014. “Dynamic Inputs and Resource (Mis)Allocation,” *Journal of Political Economy* 122(5): 1013–1063.
- Asker, J., A. Collard-Wexler, and J. de Loecker. 2019. “(Mis)Allocation, Market Power, and Global Oil Extraction,” *American Economic Review* 109(4): 1568–615.
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- Baqae, D. and E. Farhi. 2020. “Productivity and Misallocation in General Equilibrium,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 135(1): 105–63.
- *Bau, N. and A. Matray. 2023. “Misallocation and Capital Market Integration: Evidence From India,” *Econometrica* 91(1): pp. 67–106.
- Bils, M., P. Klenow, and C. Ruane. 2021. “Misallocation or Mismeasurement?” *Journal of Monetary Economics* 124: S39–56.
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- *Caselli, F. and J. Feyrer. 2007. “The marginal product of capital,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122(2) 535–68.
- Hopenhayn, H.A. 2014. “Firms, misallocation, and aggregate productivity: A review,” *Annual Review of Economics* 6: 735–70.
- **Hsieh, C. and P.J. Klenow. 2009. “Misallocation and manufacturing TFP in China and India,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124(4) 1403–48.
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- Hsieh, C. and B.A. Olken. 2014. “The missing ‘missing middle,’ ” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28(3): 89–108.
- Jones, C.I. 2011. “Intermediate goods and weak links in the theory of economic development,” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 3: 1–28.

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5.6.2 Financial Development

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5.7 Land Use

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- *Chari, A., E. Liu, S. Wang, and Y. Wang. 2021. “Property Rights, Land Misallocation, and Agricultural Efficiency in China,” *Review of Economic Studies* 88(4): 1831–62.
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- Foster, A. and M. Rosenzweig. 2011. “Are Indian Farms too Small? Mechanization, Agency Costs, and Farm Efficiency,” unpublished manuscript.
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