

EC 320: Readings and Assignment Schedule

(NOTE: This is subject to change. Please follow lectures for updates.)

Topic	Date	Topic	Readings (*required) DE=Development Economics; UP=Understanding Poverty; PE=Poor Economics	Assignment
1	Sep 7, 9, 12	Introduction and Overview What is economic development?	*Course Syllabus *DE Ch 2 Economic Development: Overview *DE Ch 6 Economic Inequality (only pp. 169-184) *UP Introduction: How Much Poverty? Where is it? Is it getting worse? (only pp. xvi-xx) DE Ch 7 Inequality and Development; UP Ch 1 Measuring Poverty, UP Ch 4 The Kutznets Curve Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2007. "The Economic Lives of the Poor." <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , 21(1): 141–167.	
2	Sep 14, 16, 21, 23	Growth and Inequality What causes economic growth?	*DE Ch 3 Economic Growth and 4.1-4.3 The New Growth Theories	Sep 19: homework 1 released
3	Sep 26, 28	Empirical Methods Primer How do we identify causal effects?	*DE Appendix 2 Elementary Statistical Methods *Lecture notes	Sep 28: Homework 1 Due
4	Sep 30, Oct 3	Foreign Aid	*Radelet, Steven, Michael Clemens, and Rikhil Bhavnani. 2005. "Aid and Growth." <i>Finance & Development</i> 42(3).	Oct 2: homework 2 released
5	Oct 3, 5, 7, 11	Conflict What are the causes and consequences of conflict in poor countries?	*Esteban, J., L. Mayoral, and D. Ray (2012), "Ethnicity and Conflict: Theory and Facts", <i>Science</i> 336(6083): 858-865. *Blattman, C. and E. Miguel (2010), "Civil War", <i>The Journal of Economic Literature</i> , 48(1): 3-57. (only Sec. 1, pp. 3-9)	
6	Oct 12, 14, 17, 19 (+ midterm review)	History, Geography, and Institutions How do history and geography shape modern institutions and patterns of economic development?	*UP Ch 2 Geography, Institutions, and the Reversal of Fortune *UP Ch 3 Colonialism, Inequality, and Long-run Paths of Development Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." <i>American Economic Review</i> , 91(5): 1369-1401. DE Ch 5 History, Expectations, and Development	Oct 12: Homework 2 Due
	Oct 21		MIDTERM EXAM (in class)	
7	Oct 24,	Fertility and	*DE Ch 9 Population Growth and Economic Development	

	26, 28	Population Growth How do population patterns interact with the development process?	UP Ch 9 Fertility and Income PE Ch 5 Pak Sudarno's Big Family UP Ch 10 Fertility in Developing Countries	
8	Oct 31, Nov 2	Family and Gender How can we test theories of resource allocation and gender discrimination?	*Sen, Amartya. "More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing." The New York Review of Books 37, no. 20 (1990). Thomas, Duncan. 1990. "Intra-Household Resource Allocation: An Inferential Approach." Journal of Human Resources 25(4): 635-664. Qian, Nancy. 2008. "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China." Quarterly Journal of Economics 123(3): 1251-1285.	Oct 31: homework 3 released
9	Nov 4, 7, 9	Land, Agriculture, Climate Change Why don't farmers adopt beneficial agricultural technologies? What are the effects of climate change on development?	*Lecture notes World Development Report 2008 (Executive Summary) Jack, Kelsey. 2013. "Market inefficiencies and the adoption of agricultural technologies in developing countries" J-PAL ATAI white paper	Nov 7: Homework 3 Due
10	Nov 11, 14, 16	Labor Markets and Migration How does migration affect development and how does development affect migration?	*DE Ch 10 Rural and Urban Gibson, John, and David McKenzie. 2011. "Eight Questions about Brain Drain." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 25(3): 107-28. Clemens, Michael. 2011. "Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 25(3): 83-106.	
10	Nov 18, 21	Corruption How does corruption interact with economic development?	*UP Ch 11 Corruption and Development Fisman and Miguel: "Cultures of Corruption: Evidence From Diplomatic Parking Tickets," in "Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations," Princeton University Press, (also NBER Working Paper 12312.)	1-2 page outline for group report Due Nov 21
11	Nov 28, 30,	Health and Nutrition How can under-nutrition lead to a poverty trap? Are health interventions cost-effective?	*DE Ch 8 Poverty and Undernutrition (only Sec. 8.4.2, pp. 272-279) and Ch 13.4 Poverty, Nutrition, and Labor Markets (pp. 489-504) *Strauss, J. and D. Thomas, 1998, "Health, Nutrition, and Economic Development", Journal of Economic Literature, pp. 766-775, 798-806. PE Ch 3 Low Hanging Fruit for Better (Global) Health UP Ch 21 Public Policies to Stimulate Development of Vaccines for Neglected Diseases	Nov 30: homework 4 released

12	Dec 2, 5	Education Why do (or don't) people invest in education? What are the returns to schooling?	*UP Ch 18 The Primacy of Education *Rosenzweig, Mark R. 2010. "Microeconomic Approaches to Development: Schooling, Learning, and Growth." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 24(3): 81- 96. PE Ch 4 Top of the Class Kremer, Michael. 2003. "Randomized Evaluations of Educational Programs in Developing Countries: Some Lessons." American Economic Review, 93(2): 102-106.	
14	Dec 7, 9	Credit, Savings, and Insurance	*DE Ch 14 Credit *DE Ch 15 Insurance *Banerjee, Abhijit, Dean Karlan, and Jonathan Zinman. 2015. "Six Randomized Evaluations of Microcredit: Introduction and Further Steps," American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 7(1): 1-21. UP Ch 23 Credit, Intermediation, and Poverty Reduction UP Ch 14 Transfers and Safety Nets in Poor Countries Banerjee, Abhijit, and Esther Duflo (2010) "Giving Credit Where it is Due" Journal of Economic Perspectives, 24(3), 61-79.	Dec 7: Homework 4 due
15	Dec 12	Catch up, Final review		Dec 12: Final Projects Due
	Dec 21 Noon-2pm		FINAL EXAM CGS 527	