

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	Foreign Aid	*Radelet, Steven, Michael Clemens, and Rikhil Bhavnani. 2005. "Aid and Growth." <i>Finance & Development</i> 42(3).	
5	Oct 3, 5, 7, 11	History, Geography, and Institutions How do history and geography shape modern institutions and patterns of economic development?	*DE Ch 5 History, Expectations, and 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.	Oct 5: homework 2 released
6	Oct 12, 14, 17, 19 (+ midterm review)	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)	Oct 12: Homework 2 Due
	Oct 21		MIDTERM EXAM (in class)	
7	Oct 24, 26	Fertility and Population Growth	*DE Ch 9 Population Growth and Economic Development	

		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 28, 31, Nov 2, 4	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.	Oct 31: homework 3 released
9	Nov 7, 9	Land and Institutions How do property rights and different contracts affect incentives?	*DE Ch 11 Markets in Agriculture and Ch 12 Land (see lecture for specific sections) *Woodruff, Christopher. 2001. "Review of de Soto's The Mystery of Capital." Journal of Economic Literature, 39(4): 1215-1223. UP Ch 8 The Role of Agriculture in Development	Nov 7: Homework 3 Due
10	Nov 11, 14	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.)	
11	Nov 16, 18, 21	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	1-2 page outline for group report Due Nov 21
12	Nov 28, 30, Dec 2	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.	Nov 30: homework 4 released

13	Dec 5	Family and Gender How can we test theories of resource allocation and gender discrimination?	<p>*Sen, Amartya. "More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing." The New York Review of Books 37, no. 20 (1990).</p> <p>Thomas, Duncan. 1990. "Intra-Household Resource Allocation: An Inferential Approach." Journal of Human Resources 25(4): 635-664.</p> <p>Qian, Nancy. 2008. "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China." Quarterly Journal of Economics 123(3): 1251-1285.</p>	
14	Dec 7, 9	Credit, Savings, and Insurance	<p>*DE Ch 14 Credit</p> <p>*DE Ch 15 Insurance</p> <p>*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.</p> <p>UP Ch 23 Credit, Intermediation, and Poverty Reduction</p> <p>UP Ch 14 Transfers and Safety Nets in Poor Countries</p> <p>Banerjee, Abhijit, and Esther Duflo (2010) "Giving Credit Where it is Due" Journal of Economic Perspectives, 24(3), 61-79.</p>	Dec 7: Homework 4 due
15	Dec 12	Catch up, Final review		Dec 12: Final Projects Due
	W3 Dec		FINAL EXAM	