

**ECONOMICS 499**  
**ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SPRING 2018**

Wilkinson Hall, Room 231, Corvallis  
TR 10:00-11:50am (4 Credits)

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**Instructor:** Michael Jerman

Contact Information:

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Office Hours:

M/W 10:30-11:30am

T/Th 8:30-9:30am

Or by appointment

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**Course Description:** There are large differences in income across countries. This course will answer the questions what makes poor countries poor and what makes rich countries rich? We will begin by exploring the theory of economic growth and analyze the importance of demographics, human capital, productivity, and technology. We will then study the importance of various fundamental causes of economic growth, including government policy, culture, geography, and the environment. By the end of the course we will have a greater understanding of what causes (or prevents) poor countries from becoming rich, and what policies can be implemented to raise living standards across the world.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Gain knowledge of the causes and consequences of the income distribution.
- Apply analytical methods to describe economic growth
- Use quantitative and computational methods to analyze the theory of economic growth

**Prerequisites:** The prerequisites for this course are ECON 311 and ECON 320 (intermediate micro and macro).

**Textbook:** The course textbook is *Economic Growth* by David Weil. The readings will be from the third edition, which is available at the bookstore. We will cover roughly one chapter per day, though deviations from this schedule should be expected.

**Canvas:** All announcements, assignments, and grades will be will be posted on Canvas (canvas.oregonstate.edu). This is the official website for the course, and you will be responsible for any and all information that is posted there. Therefore if you have any difficulties accessing Canvas it is imperative that you resolve them as quickly as possible by contacting the Canvas support at canvas@oregonstate.edu.

**Attendance:** Your grade will not formally depend on your attendance during the lectures, but you will be responsible for everything that is discussed in class. As a general rule you should NOT expect, slides, notes, or other materials to be made available outside of class.

**Homework:** There will be four homework assignments throughout the term. The homework will be graded primarily on completion and effort. No late assignments will be accepted. You are encouraged to work in together in groups, but each person must submit their own assignment.

**Exams:** There will be one midterm examination and one comprehensive final examination. The midterm will be held in class on Tuesday, May 8 (week 6). The final exam is **tentatively** scheduled for Tuesday, June 12 at 9:30am (*note that this date and time may be subject to change*). A non-graphing calculator is permitted for each exam.

No makeup exams will be given. If the midterm is missed due to a *documented* emergency, the weight of the exam will be placed on final. An documented emergency that causes you to miss the final will result in an incomplete for the course. Missing any exam for a reason other than a documented emergency will result in a score of zero.

**Grades:** Your grade will be calculated based on the following weights:

Homework: 30%  
Midterm: 30%  
Final: 40%

The *minimum* letter grade that you will receive based on your weighted total of points earned is given below:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:** Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations.

While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

**Student Conduct:** You are expected to adhere to the university's Code of Student Conduct, which is available at the following website:

[http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code\\_of\\_student\\_conduct.pdf](http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf)

At a minimum, any incidence of academic misconduct (as defined by the above code) will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

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### **Tentative Schedule**

	Schedule	Assignments
Week 1	Chapters 1 & 2, Introduction to programming	
Week 2	Chapter 3	
Week 3	Chapters 4 and 5	Homework 1 due, Thursday April 19
Week 4	Chapter 7 and 8, growth accounting	
Week 5	Chapter 6, Catch-up and review	Homework 2 due, Thursday May 3
Week 6	Chapter 10	<b>Midterm exam, Tuesday May 8</b>
Week 7	Chapter 11	
Week 8	Chapter 12, institutions	Homework 3 due, Thursday May 24
Week 9	Chapter 13	
Week 10	Catch-up and review	Homework 4 due, Thursday June 7
<b>Final Exam: Tuesday, June 12 at 9:30am</b>		