ECONOMICS 499
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2019

Bexell Hall, Room 207
MW 4:00-5:50pm (4 Credits)

Instructor: Michael Jerman

Contact Information:		Office Hours:	
Office:	BEXL 342	M/W	11:00am–1:00pm
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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 315 (intermediate micro and macro).

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course. Lecture material will draw heavily from the textbook *Economic Growth* by David Weil, but you are not required to purchase it. Old and "international" editions are available online for less than $20.

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.

Software: This course will involve computational work using scientific and/or statistical software. The software that will be used will be freely available on campus computers, though it is recommended that you install a version on your own personal computer for convenience.

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.

Midterm Exam: There will be one midterm examination held in class on Wednesday, May 8 (week 6). A non-graphing calculator is permitted for the 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 project. 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.

Final Project: There will be a final project in place of a final exam, due on the Friday of exam week (June 14). This project will draw upon the computational tools and results explored throughout the term. The details of the final project will be announced no later than week 10.

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

Homework:	30%
Midterm:	30%
Final Project:	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`

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

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, Wednesday April 17
Week 4	Chapter 7 and 8, growth accounting	
Week 5	Chapter 6, Catch-up and review	Homework 2 due, Monday May 6
Week 6	Chapter 10	**Midterm exam, Wednesday May 8**
Week 7	Chapter 11	
Week 8	Chapter 12, institutions	Homework 3 due, Wednesday May 22
Week 9	Chapter 13	
Week 10	Catch-up and review	Homework 4 due, Wednesday June 5
Final Project Due: Friday, June 14		