

World Economy

Fall Semester, 2023

Instructor

Dr. Shengwu Shang

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Course Information

- Class Meetings:
Online Zoom meeting: Thursday 13:30-16:05, Beijing Time
Meeting ID: 987 5884 1572
Passcode: 110098

Prerequisites

- Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics at introductory levels as textbooks by N. Gregory Mankiw.
- Introduction to Statistical Methods in Economics,

Course Overview

This course deals with economic patterns and policies in developing countries. We will start by reviewing general features of developing countries and classic and contemporary theories of economic development. Then, we will focus our interests on domestic problems and policies over a wide range of issues. Lastly, we will expand our interests to international problems and policies such as the role of international trade, finance and aid flows. Knowledge on microeconomics and macroeconomics is assumed, and differential calculus will be used at times through the lecture.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the key concepts and theories of economic development
- Analyze the challenges and opportunities facing developing countries
- Evaluate the effectiveness of different policy approaches to development
- Critically assess the impact of globalization on developing countries

Textbook and Reading List

- Reference: *Economic Development* by Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, 12th edition, 2015.
- Reference: *World Economy, The: Geography, Business, Development, 6th edition* by Frederick P. Stutz.

I will not assign readings out of them. Rather, I suggest looking at them when economic models covered in lecture are not clear. There will also be newspaper and academic articles assigned throughout the semester, as well as required web surfing.

Quizzes

There will be 4 Quizzes with each worth 20 points. The 30-minute Quizzes are very important for learning and understanding the material and are designed to help prepare students for exams.

Exams

There will be one in class midterm exams and one cumulative final exam. The midterm is worth 50 points and the final exam will have 100 points. The exam dates will be decided soon.

Term paper/presentation

the paper is about a social development topic of a country/region ; try to apply what we learn in the class to real life problems; it is not necessary to be long, five or six pages are enough. For presentation, you have to choose one of the case studies from chapter 2 to 12, prepare slides and do a 10-15 minutes presentation to the class. You must choose one of these two and do not need to do both. The due date for term paper is the last day of class.

Grading Scheme

There are 250 points in total in this course, including 80 of quizzes, 150 points of exams and 20 points of term paper/presentation. Your course's final grade will be calculated using the following scale:

A	B	C	D	F
90-100%	80-89%	70-79%	60-69%	below 60%

Quiz/Exam Policy

All exams and quizzes are “closed book” and “closed notes”. Any schedule conflict should be brought to the instructor's notice within the first week of the class. No make-up exams and quizzes will be given under any circumstances. Students who missed any of the exams and quizzes for the legitimate reasons such as family emergency or medical absence conformed by official documents will receive grade based on the other exam and quizzes taken. The policy is that the points of a missed quiz are replaced by the average points of all the quizzes taken in the whole semester; the points of missed midterm exam will be counted by one half of the final exam; the points of missed final exam will be counted the same as midterm. Any other reason for absence is likely to result in a grade of zero for that exam or quiz.

Weekly Topics (tentative)

Week 1: Introduction to Economic Development

- Introduction to economic development: definitions, goals, and challenges
- Theories of economic development: classical, neoclassical, structuralist, and institutionalist perspectives

Week 2: Economic Growth and Development

- Economic growth: concept and measurement
- The role of institutions and governance in economic development
- The relationship between economic growth and human development

Week 3: Theories of Economic Development

- The Lewis model and the dual economy
- The Harrod-Domar model and the importance of investment
- The Solow-Swan model and the role of technology

Week 4: Poverty and Inequality

- Poverty: definitions, measurement, and causes
- Inequality: concepts and measurement
- The relationship between poverty, inequality, and economic development

Week 5: Human Development

- Human development: concepts and measurement
- Education and health in economic development
- Gender and development

Week 6: Agriculture and Rural Development

- Agriculture in economic development
- Rural development strategies
- Land reform and property rights

Week 7: Industrialization and Trade

- Industrialization: strategies and challenges
- International trade and economic development
- Foreign aid and development finance

Week 8: Urbanization and Migration

- Urbanization and economic development
- The informal sector and urban poverty
- Migration and remittances

Week 9: Environment and Sustainability

- The role of the environment in economic development
- Sustainable development: concepts and challenges
- Climate change and adaptation

Week 10: Institutions and Governance

- Good governance: concepts and measurement
- Corruption and development
- Democracy and development

Week 11: Globalization and Development

- Globalization and economic development
- Multinational corporations and development
- Regional integration and development

Week 12: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Innovation and economic development
- Entrepreneurship and economic development
- Science, technology, and development

Week 13: Financial Systems and Development

- Financial systems and economic development
- Microfinance and development
- Debt and development

Week 14: The Informal Economy

- The informal economy: concepts and measurement
- Informal entrepreneurship and economic development
- Informal social protection

Week 15: Conflict and Development

- Conflict and economic development
- Post-conflict reconstruction and development
- Humanitarian aid and development

Week 16: Conclusion and Review

- Achievements and challenges of economic development
- Review of key concepts and theories
- Future directions for economic development

A Note from the Instructor

Every undergraduate course I teach, there's something about it I really like. I think this one is going to be that world economy has been my primary area of research for the last several years. We also have a small class, so I hope that means we will have lively discussions, and that no one feels intimidated. During the first class each student introduces themselves by providing their:

- Name
- Major
- Something to remember them by
- Favorite TV show or board / card game

Instructor's Advice

- Come to class as possible as you can; It takes time to learn to work problems.
- Cramming doesn't work: Just a little time week by week will be much more effective than spending the same amount of time before a deadline.
- The best way to get a hold of me is by email or by stopping by my office hours. As for your email, put **"World Economy: Key words of your question"** as the subject. I will check my email as much as possible from 9am to 6pm during the weekdays, but I make no guarantees about reading or responding on the same day to emails sent later at night or over the weekend.
- The biggest expectation I can have of you is to ask questions! Please! I promise you that 99% (is that a statistic!?) of the time multiple people are confused about the same thing as you. Or at the very least, one question may cause other questions to be asked. This is a good thing! I try to take all questions seriously as long as they are asked seriously. Other than that, just be excellent to each other in class and we will get through this class just fine.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to change the syllabus as circumstances necessitate, it is your responsibility to keep up with any changed policies announced in class or other form of notification.