

Development Economics
Collegio Carlo Alberto - Spring 2018

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Course Description:

This course presents an overview of Development Economics. This field studies issues related to developing countries: the possible reasons why some countries are poor and others rich - geography, history, institutions, culture; the progress that we have seen over the last century and potential interventions - trade and migration, health, education; and some of the current challenges faced - corruption, conflict. The course provides a look at these topics through relevant readings and assignments.

Pre-requisites:

Econometrics I
Applied Economics (recommended)

Grades:

Midterm (20%)
Term paper (20%)
Presentation (20%)
Final Exam (40%)

Outline and reading list (*required) :

1. Introduction

*Anindya Sen (1999) Development as Freedom, Chapter 1
*James Ferguson (1990) The Anti-politics machine, Chapter 1

2. Geography

*Jared Diamond (1998) Guns, Germs and Steel, Chapter 10
*Nunn and Puga (2010). "Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa". *Review of Economics and Statistics*
Easterly and Levine (2003). "Tropics, Germs, and Crops: How Endowments Influence Economic Development". *Journal of Monetary Economics*

3. History

*Nunn (2008) "Long Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Dell (2011) "The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita". *Econometrica*

Nunn and Qian (2009) "The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from an Historical Experiment". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

4. Institutions

*Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2012) Why Nations Fail, Chapter 1

*Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001) "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation". *American Economic Review*

Banerjee and Iyer (2005) "History, Institutions and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India". *American Economic Review*

5. Culture

*Guiso, Sapienza and Zingales (2006) "Does Culture Affect Economic Outcomes?". *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

Knack and Keefer (1997) "Does Social Capital have an economic Payoff?". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Alesina, Giuliano and Nunn (2013) "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

6. Trade and migration

*Pietra Rivoli (2005) The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy, Part II

*Pascali (2017) "The Wind of Change: Maritime Technology, Trade and Economic Development". *American Economic Review*

Topalova (2010), "Factor Immobility and Regional Impacts of Trade Liberalization: Evidence on Poverty from India". *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

Munshi (2003). "Networks in the Modern Economy: Mexican Migrants in the U.S. Labor Market". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

7. Health

*Angus Deaton (2013) The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality, Chapter 1

*Miguel and Kremer (2004) "Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities". *Econometrica*

Cohen and Dupas (2010) "Free Distribution or Cost-Sharing? Evidence from a Malaria Prevention Experiment". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

8. Education

*Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo (2011) Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty, Chapter 4

*Duflo (2000) "Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment". *American Economic Review*
Duflo, Dupas and Kremer (2011) "Peer Effects, Teacher Incentives, and the Impact of Tracking: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation in Kenya". *American Economic Review*

9. Corruption

*Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel (2008) *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*, Chapter 4

*Ferraz and Finan (2008). "Exposing Corrupt Politicians: The Effect of Brazil's Publicly Released Audits on Electoral Outcomes". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Olken (2007), "Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia". *Journal of Political Economy*

Fisman and Miguel (2007), "Corruption, Norms and Legal Enforcement: Evidence from Diplomatic Parking Tickets". *Journal of Political Economy*

10. Conflict

*Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel (2008) *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*, Chapter 6

*Miguel, Satyanath and Sergenti (2004) "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach". *Journal of Political Economy*

Blattman and Miguel (2010) "Civil War". *Journal of Economic Literature*

Dube and Vargas (2013) "Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia". *Review of Economic Studies*