

**Development Economics**  
Collegio Carlo Alberto - Spring 2019

Instructor: Juan S. Morales

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Lectures: T4-6 Th 11-1

Office hours: T6-7

**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, media; 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%)

Participation (+10%)

**Outline and reading list (\*required) :**

**1. Introduction**

\*Rosling (2007) Ted Talk: [https://www.ted.com/talks/hans\\_rosling\\_reveals\\_new\\_insights\\_on\\_poverty](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_reveals_new_insights_on_poverty)

\*Pande (2019) "A New Home for Extreme Poverty: Middle-Income Countries" *New York Times*:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/28/opinion/inequality-poverty-global-aid.html>

\*Ferguson and Lohman (1994) "The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development" and bureaucratic power in Lesotho". *The Ecologist* (+Book Preface)

\*Amartya Sen (1999) *Development as Freedom*, Chapter 1 (+ Preface & Introduction)

De Silva and Tenreyro (2017) "Population Control Policies and Fertility Convergence". *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

**2. Geography**

\*Jared Diamond (1998) *Guns, Germs and Steel*, Chapter 10 (+ Preface & Prologue)

\*Henderson et al (2017). "The Global Distribution of Economic Activity: Nature, History and The Role of Trade". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

\*Nunn and Puga (2012). "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*

\*Nunn and Qian (2011) "The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from an Historical Experiment". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Michalopoulos and Papaioannou (2012) "Pre-Colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development". *Econometrica*

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

### **4. Institutions**

\*Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2012) *Why Nations Fail*, Chapters 1 & 2 (+ Preface)

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

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

Lowes, Nunn, Robinson and Weigel (2017) "The Evolution Of Culture And Institutions: Evidence From The Kuba Kingdom". *Econometrica*

### **5. Culture**

\*Alesina and Giuliano (2015) "Culture and Institutions". *Journal of Economic Literature*

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

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

Algan and Cahuc (2010) "Inherited Trust and Growth". *American Economic Review*

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

## **6. Trade and migration**

\*Pietra Rivoli (2005) *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*, (Chapters 6, 7, 8 + Prologue)

\*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*, Chapters 2 & 3 (+ Preface)

\*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*, Chapters 1 & 4 (+ Foreword)

\*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. Media**

\*Eisensee and Strömberg (2007) "News Droughts, News Floods, and U. S. Disaster Relief". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

\*Jensen and Oster (2009) "The Power of TV: Cable Television and Women's Status in India". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Qin, Strömberg and Wu (2018) "Media Bias in China". *American Economic Review*

Blouin and Mukand (forthcoming) "Erasing Ethnicity? Propaganda, Nation Building and Identity in Rwanda". *Journal of Political Economy*

La Ferrara et al (2012) "Soap Operas and Fertility: Evidence from Brazil". *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

## **10. Corruption**

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

\*Avis, Ferraz and Finan (2018) "Do Government Audits Reduce Corruption? Estimating the Impacts of Exposing Corrupt Politicians". *Journal of Political Economy*

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*

## **11. Conflict**

\*Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel (2008) *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*, Chapters 5 & 6

\*Crost, Felter and Johnston (2014) "Aid under Fire: Development Projects and Civil Conflict". *American Economic Review*

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*