Development Economics
Collegio Carlo Alberto - Spring 2021

Instructor: Juan S. Morales
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Lectures: TBD
Office hours: TBD

Course Description:
This course presents an overview of topics in 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 challenges currently faced - corruption, conflict. The course provides a look at these issues reading through a mix of seminal books and papers, as well as more recent work on these topics.

Pre-requisites:
Econometrics I
Applied Economics (recommended)

Grades:
Midterm (20%)
Term paper (20%)
Presentation + report (20%)
Final Exam (40%)
Participation (+10%)

Outline and reading list (*required):

1. Introduction


2. **Geography**

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


3. **History**


4. **Institutions**

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


Dell (2011) “The Persistent Effects of Peru’s Mining Mita”. Econometrica


5. **Culture**


Alesina and Giuliano (2015) "Culture and Institutions" (Sections 1 and 2). *Journal of Economic Literature*

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


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)


7. **Health**


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)


9. **Media and technology**


*Manacorda and Tesei (forthcoming) "Liberation Technology: Mobile Phones and Political Mobilization in Africa". *Econometrica*

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


10. **Corruption**


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


11. **Conflict**


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


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