

University of California, San Diego

Econ 116: Economic Development (Spring 2013)

Class time: Mon/Wed 5:00 – 6:20pm, Center Hall Room 101

Instructor: Prof. Karthik Muralidharan

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Office: Economics 211

Office hours: Wednesdays: 2:00 – 3:00pm + One hour variable by week (announced Mondays)

**Course description:** This course is intended to provide an introduction to the problems of economic development in low-income countries and their interaction with developed economies. The first half of the course will focus on 'macro' topics in development (growth, history, geography, institutions, trade, and political economy), while the second half will focus on 'micro' topics in development (health, education, agriculture, migration, microfinance, and market imperfections). There is no text for this course. Readings will be posted on TED.

**Lectures:** The main form of instruction in this course is the lectures and you are expected to attend all lectures. Lectures will be posted online the previous evening. You can print these in advance for easier note taking. They will also be podcast to help you review materials and catch up on missed lectures. You are responsible for *all the material* and announcements in the lectures.

**Problem Sets:** There will be four problem sets. You will have a week for each of them and problem sets are due at the end of lecture on the due dates. Answers will be posted on the course website on the due dates and **late problem sets will not be accepted**. If you will miss a lecture when a problem set is due, you can drop it off early with a TA or arrange with a friend to have it turned in at the lecture or scan and e-mail it to the TA's before they are due. Problem sets will have 4-5 questions each and are only graded on completion (1 point for each fully attempted question). You can work in groups, but each student must turn in their own problem set written up individually. Problem sets will not be corrected, but detailed answers will be posted shortly after they are due.

**Grading:** Your grade will be determined on the basis of problem set completion (20%), one midterm exam (30%) and a final exam (50%). The midterm will cover material based on the first four weeks (first 2 problem sets), and the final will be cumulative but put more weight on the materials covered in the last six weeks (last 2 problem sets).

The problem set dates and materials covered in them are:

	Date put up on course website	Due in class at the end of lecture on
Problem Set 1 (Wk 1-2)	10 April	17 April
Problem Set 2 (Wk 3-4)	24 April	1 May
Problem Set 3 (Wk 5-7)	15 May	22 May
Problem Set 4 (Wk 8-10)	29 May	5 June

The exam set dates and materials covered in them are:

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Midterm (Week 1-4)	1 May	In class (75 minutes)
Final (Cumulative, but will put more weight on week 5-10)	14 June	TBA (150 minutes)
Alternative Final Date	9 June (Sunday)	TBA (150 minutes)

**Review Sessions and TAs:** The TAs for this course are Jedrzej (Yendrick) Zieleniak (jzieleniak@ucsd.edu), Xuan Liang (x5liang@ucsd.edu) and Vincent Leah-Martin (vleahmar@ucsd.edu). They will be in charge of most of the grading, and will hold office hours. The TA's are here to help you learn and attending office hours with questions is one of the best ways to reinforce the materials that you may be seeing for the first time in class.

TA office hours will be announced in class and posted on the course website.

**Website:** Please check the course web site regularly. The web site will have problem sets and answers, the slides for each class, and all relevant information about the class. The website will also have any additional readings that are not on the list below that will be designated as required, recommended, or optional. You will be responsible for all readings designated as "required".

### **COURSE OUTLINE (By Week)**

Week 1: Course overview and measurement of well being

Week 2: Growth models and Convergence, Coordination Failures and the Big Push

Week 3: Geography, Resources, Institutions, and Political Economy

Week 4: Trade and Technology Transfer

Week 5: Population, Demographic Transition, and Gender (1 lecture only)

### **MIDTERM (in class on 1 May 2013)**

Week 6: Human Capital: Education

Week 7: Human Capital: Education and Health

Week 8: Agriculture, Cities, Rural-Urban Migration

Week 9: Finance, Savings, Financial inclusion, Microfinance (spillover to next week)

Week 10: Reducing market frictions and imperfections (1 lecture only)

### **FINAL EXAMINATION (14 June 2013 or 9 June 2013)**