Special Topics in Economic Growth and Development

Course Content: This course surveys selected recent developments — both theoretical and empirical — in economic growth and development from a macro perspective.

Texts: General reference text for the course is:


Other useful books are:


Articles can be downloaded from the journal websites (link from the University Library homepage to the journals collection), from JSTORE, Science Direct or from the NBER Working papers site (http://www.nber.org/). For most working papers, try www.google.com. If you have trouble locating a particular article, please let me know and I will make copies available.

Requirements:

(1) Exam (Take-home), (2) Presentation, (3) Referee reports.

Reports

Once a month (hence three times during the semester) you must hand in a detailed referee report on a paper that is related to the course’s topic. The paper can be chosen by you — subject to previous approval from me, — or by me if you don’t have preferences.

The paper can be either published or unpublished. The report must contain a brief summary of the paper (two paragraphs absolute maximum), and then a detailed discussion of why or why not it deserves publication in, say, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and what can be done to make it publishable. The report is due on the last meeting of each month.

Presentations

You must choose one topic and make a class presentation/lecture on that topic (45 – 60 minutes). You should provide a reading list on your topic and may make a handout. The presentation should cover the established literature on that topic but should also cover the most state-of-the-art research.
READING LISTS

1. Development Accounting


2. Financial Development and Convergence


3. Contractual Enforcement


4. Appropriate Technology


5. Technology Diffusion


6. Agriculture and Development


7. Ethnic Conflict


8. Competition and Entry


9. Appropriate Institutions


10. Education

Barro, Robert and Jong-Wha Lee, "International Data on Educational Attainment: Updates and Implications", Working Paper no. 42, Center for International Development at Harvard University, April 2000. (With Appendix Data Set Downloadable from http://www2.cid.harvard.edu/ciddata/)


Vandenbussche, J, Aghion, P, and C. Meghir (2004): " Distance to the Technological Frontier and the Composition of Human Capital”, mimeo Harvard

11. Volatility and Growth


Ranciere, R, and A. Tornell (2003), ”Real Exchange Rate Risk, Growth, and Welfare”, mimeo UCLA

12. Scale Effects and Quality versus Variety


