The course explores the defining development challenges of the contemporary developing world. The topics covered include: poverty and inequality; population and development; health and education; the role of institutions in development; social fractionalization, corruption and civil conflict; as well as the environment and development. The canonical economic models of growth and development will be covered to provide broader guiding frameworks for the class. The course gets underway with discussions of important concepts, measures and indicators of economic development; it concludes with some hopeful notes – unusual for a course on development economics – but justified given the recent experiences of some of the developing countries.

This is NOT a methods course, nor does it require prior knowledge in econometric analysis. Nevertheless, a successful engagement in the class will allow a student to assess the contribution to knowledge of a typical empirical research in development economics, allowing him/her to become an effective development practitioner.

Lectures: Monday 2:30 – 5:20 pm, EV3 4412

Office Hours: Friday 10 – 12 am, STP 227

Required Readings:


2. Assigned Papers which are indicated below. They must be read carefully enough to understand the issues. A main concern of the lectures is evaluation of the papers’ research designs and methods. Attending lectures will thus help students in forming critical opinion of the issues tackled by the papers.
**Grading:**

The course grade will be assigned as follows:

1) A two-page Policy Brief (PB) dealing with specific issues on economic development. Instructions for these assignments will be provided one week before they are due. Every student will present their PB in class on the due date (15%);

2) A 5 to 7 pages case-study dealing with a topic of choice covered in class. The case studies – expected to focus on any of the countries in the developing world – will be due on the last day of class. Students need to consult with me (during office hours) on how to execute this part of the course requirement before the end of February (25%);

3) A mid-term that covers the first four items of the Syllabus (20%); (February 1)

4) A Final exam on the rest of the course materials on the last day of class (40%).

**Contents:**

1. Economic Development: An Overview. (January 4)

2. Measures and Indicators of Development. (January 11)

3. Conventional Theories of Economic Growth and Development (January 18)

4. Poverty and Inequality (January 25)

5. Population and Development

   a. Population Growth and Development (February 8)  


b. Migration and Development (February 22)


6. Human Capital and Development

a. Education (February 29)


b. Health (March 7)


Thomas, Duncan, et al. (2003). “Iron Deficiency and the Well-Being of Older Adults: Early Results from a Randomized Nutrition Intervention”, Unpublished manuscript, UCLA


7. History, Institutions and Development (March 14)


8. Social Fractionalization, Civil Conflict, Corruption, and Development (March 21)


9. The Environment and Development (March 28)

1. Economic Models of Environmental Issues
2. Environmental Issues and Development
3. Global Warming and Climate Change
4. Policy Options
Note: See the 2003 *World Development Report* of the World Bank, published by Oxford University Press, for a good review of the issues linking the environment to economic development.

10. Concluding Remarks: Looking Ahead (March 28)