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ECNS 450.01: Advanced Topics in Economic Development

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ECNS 450: ADVANCED TOPICS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Spring 2019 Syllabus

Logistics

- Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 12 – 12.50pm
- Classroom: Jeanette Rankin Hall, Rm 203
- Instructor: Katrina Mullan
 - [Email](mailto:katrina.mullan@umontana.edu): katrina.mullan@umontana.edu
 - Office hours: Monday, 9.30-10.30am; Wednesday, 1-2pm; or by appointment
 - Liberal Arts Building, Rm 412
- Teaching Assistant:
 - [Email](#): Jared Halvorson
 - Office hours: 1-2pm Tuesday; 3.30-4.30pm Thursday; or by appointment
 - Liberal Arts Building, Rm 409
- Required textbook: Roland, G. (2014) *Development Economics*. Routledge.
- Recommended textbook: Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo (2012) *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. Public Affairs. [available online from Mansfield Library]
- Course website: I will post assignments, readings and any additional information on the class Moodle page. Announcements will be emailed via Moodle. Please ensure that you regularly check both the Moodle page and the email account associated with it.

Prerequisites

- Principles of Microeconomics (ECNS 201)

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This is a course in development economics structured for upper-level undergraduate students and graduate students in economics. We will use economic theory and empirical evidence to examine processes of development and the challenges faced by individuals in poor countries.

Students who successfully complete this course will understand:

- Global distribution of income and comparative growth rates
- Challenges in measuring poverty and inequality
- Patterns of population growth associated with development, and determinants of demographic transition
- Patterns and drivers of structural change
- Role of institutions and corruption in development and underdevelopment
- Relationship between development, political institutions and conflict
- Role of credit in persistence of poverty
- Current approaches to evaluating the impacts of development interventions
- Theory and evidence on interventions to improve health and education in poor countries

Class assignments

- Homework assignments consisting of a mix of short-answer questions, essay questions and analysis of data.
- Reading, answering written questions on, and discussing journal articles and book chapters
- A midterm, held during class time on **Wednesday Mar 6th**, and a final exam at **10.10am – 12.10pm on Friday May 3rd**, both consisting of short-answer questions, long-answer questions and numerical problems.

There will be a graduate increment involving an essay on the theory and empirical evidence relating to an applied development topic.

Detailed guidelines for each assignment will be posted on the course Moodle page. Late assignments will be penalized.

Participation grades will be based on attendance and on participation in class discussions and in-class exercises.

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>
Homework assignments	40%
Written questions and in-class discussion of articles and chapters	15%
Participation	10%
Exams	35%

Academic Conduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University (for more details on [Student Conduct Code](http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/student_conduct.php), go to: http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/student_conduct.php). Students are expected to do their own work in their own words, without seeking inappropriate assistance in preparing for or completing exams or assignments. I require that you will work to uphold high standards of integrity.

Students with Disabilities

Whenever possible, and in accordance with civil rights laws, The University of Montana will attempt to provide reasonable modifications to students with disabilities who request and require them. Please feel free to set up a time with me to discuss any modifications that may be necessary for this course. For more information, visit the [Disability Services for Students website](http://www.umt.edu/disability) at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Outline Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Begins</i>	<i>Tentative topics (we may go faster or slower)</i>	<i>Readings for the topic</i>
1	Jan 7	Introduction; The Development Gap	Ch. 1 and MDG Gap Report (2015)
2	Jan 14	The Development Gap and Impact Evaluation	Ch. 1, Appendix and Baird et al (2011)
3	Jan 21	Poverty and Inequality (no class Jan 21)	Ch. 2 and Sen (1983)
4	Jan 28	Population Growth	Ch. 3 and Poor Economics Ch. 5
5	Feb 4	Economic Growth	Ch. 4 and Duflo (2001)
6	Feb 11	Economic Growth cont. / Structural Change	Ch. 4 and Acemoglu et al (2002)/ Ch. 5
7	Feb 18	Structural Change (no class Feb 18)	Ch. 5 and Mobarak policy brief
8	Feb 25	Institutions and Economic Development / Corruption	Ch. 7, Ch. 19 and Fisman and Miguel (2008)
9	Mar 4	Political Institutions	Ch. 9 and Poor Economics Ch. 10
		Midterm Wednesday Mar 6th	
10	Mar 11	Conflict	Ch. 20 and Hsiang et al. (2013)
11	Mar 18	The Role of Credit Markets in Development	Ch. 9 and Poor Economics Ch. 7
12	Mar 25	Spring Break, no classes	
13	Apr 1	American Indian Economic Development	Akee et al (2010)
14	Apr 8	Health Care Delivery in Developing Countries	Ch. 16 and Maccini and Yang (2009)
15	Apr 15	Education Delivery in Developing Countries	Ch. 17 and Baland and Robinson (2000)
16	Apr 22	Wrap up and review	-
17	Apr 29	Final Exam – 10.10am – 12.10pm, Friday May 3rd	