



蘇州大學
Soochow University

ECO 340 Development Economics

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to Development Economics and is concerned with how economists have sought to explain how the process of economic growth occurs, and how – or whether – that delivers improved well-being of people. The course includes theories of growth and their critiques from feminist, capabilities and heterodox economic traditions. We explore the relationship between economic growth, poverty, inequality, sustainability and human development.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the theories, concepts, and principles of development economics, including the role of institutions, markets, and governments in promoting economic development
2. Analyze the factors that influence economic growth, such as technology, human capital, and natural resources, and evaluate their contribution to development
3. Evaluate the impact of globalization and trade policies on economic development, and understand the challenges and opportunities that they present to developing countries
4. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of development policies, programs, and interventions, and understand the role of evaluation and evidence-based policymaking in development
5. Understand the role of international organizations and development agencies in promoting economic development, and analyze their policies and practices



PREREQUISITES

ECO 206 Microeconomic Theory I

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

| ITEM | POINTS |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Quizzes | 20 Points |
| Midterm | 20 Points |
| Short-paper | 20 Points |
| Final Exam | 30 Points |
| Final Presentation | 10 Points |
| Total | 100 Points |

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt , *The Economics of Growth* , The MIT Press, 2009.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

| MODULE | TASKS |
|---------------|--------------|
|---------------|--------------|



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|----------|--|
| Module 1 | <p>Topics: Topic 1: Growth I : Convergence (neoclassical growth theory, convergence) Topic 2: Growth II : Technology, Population Topic 3: Growth III: Divergence Topic 4: Institutions I: Colonial Origins</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz#1</p> |
| Module 2 | <p>Topics: Topic 5: Institutions II: Formal Institutions Topic 6: Institutions III: Informal Institutions Topic 7: Financial Markets I Topic 8: Financial Markets II: Microfinance</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz#2</p> |
| Module 3 | <p>Topics: Topic 9: The measurement of economic development: Traditional and Modern I Topic 10: The measurement of economic development: Traditional and Modern II Topic 11: Poverty, Inequality and Development Topic 12: Growth and Development Theories</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm</p> |
| Module 4 | <p>Topics: Topic 13: Human Development I: Health and Nutrition Topic 14: Human Development II: Education Topic 15: Structuralism, developmental growth models and strategies Topic 16: Structuralism, Import Substitution Industrialization, Industrial Policy, New Structuralism</p> <p>Assessments: Short-paper</p> |
| Module 5 | <p>Topics: Topic 17: International Trade Topic 18: Sustainability – Political Economics of the Environment Topic 19: Student panel discussion on growth, poverty, inequality, and human development Topic 20: Final Exam Review and Presentation</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p> |

ATTENDANCE



1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY



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Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.