Development Economics

Fall 2002

Two sessions / week
1.5 hours / session

Esther Duflo
Abhijit Banerjee
Michael Kremer

This class contributes to the fulfillment of requirements for the development field for Economics Ph.D. students at both Harvard and MIT. People other than Economics Ph.D. students should consult with the instructors before enrolling.

The first two-thirds of the class will be taught jointly by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo and the last one-third will be taught by Michael Kremer.

Requirements: Problem sets will generally be handed out every other Wednesday and will be due one week later. The final exam will count for 70% of the grade, and the problem sets will account for the remaining 30%. The final exam will be held at the regular class meeting place and time. Class participation will also be considered in borderline cases.

Many readings are available on the web. For readings not on the web, there are two separate course books. Course books with readings for the first two-thirds of the course (the MIT section, those listed with double stars) is currently available at the MIT Copy Technology Center. Readings will also be put on reserve at Dewey library and Littauer library. Readings for the last third (the Kremer section) of the class are available on Harvard’s e-reserves.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Development Seminar, which meets on Tuesdays for 1.5 hours at Harvard. When there is an out-of-town speaker, we normally take the speaker out to dinner, and we will try to save a couple of spots for graduate students each time.

Everyone is also encouraged to attend the Development Lunch. MIT’s Development Lunch meets on Mondays. The Harvard Development Lunch meets on Wednesdays.

General readings

BOOKS:

(recommended)


Articles:


1. Introduction (1 lecture)


2. Nutrition and Health (2 lectures)


3. Education (3 lectures)

** Duflo, Esther (2001), "Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment" *American


4. Land (2 lectures)


5. Credit (4 lectures)


* Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo (2002), " Do Firms Want to Borrow More? Testing Credit Constraints Using a Directed Lending Program ,"


* Karlan, Dean (2002), " Social Capital and Group Banking ," mimeo


* Pitt, Mark and Shahidur Khandker (1998), "The Impact of Group-based Credit

6. Reputation


7. Gender and Family


* Duflo, Esther (2000), " Grandmothers and Granddaughters: Old Age Pension and Intra-household Allocation in South Africa ,"


Part II: General Equilibrium

Kremer, M. Contents of Course Packet for 14.771/Harvard 2390b

8. Technology


9. Population


Development economics is a branch of economic study that focuses on improving fiscal, economic, and social conditions in developing countries. The application of development economics is complex and varied as the cultural, social, and economic frameworks of every nation is different. Four common theories of development economics include mercantilism, nationalism, the linear stages of growth model, and structural-change theory. Understanding Development Economics. Development economics studies the transformation of emerging nations into more prosperous nations. Strategies for transforming a developing economy tend to be unique because the social and political backgrounds of countries can vary dramatically. Women in Economics. Selected Video Series. Dialogue with the Fed. Economic Lowdown Videos. No-Frills Money Skills. Homer Jones Memorial Lectures. Voices of the Fed. The Connecting Communities® webinar series is a Federal Reserve System initiative intended to provide a national audience with timely insights and information on emerging and important community and economic development topics. Join an upcoming webinar. GENERAL. Home. About Us. Bank Supervision. Careers. Development economics is a branch of economics which deals with economic aspects of the development process in low income countries. Its focus is not only on methods of promoting economic development, economic growth and structural change but also on improving the potential for the mass of the population, for example, through health, education and workplace conditions, whether through public or private channels.