

Syllabus

Course Title:	Development Economics
Course Num:	SPEA-V-573
Prerequisites:	Knowledge of basic economics and statistical techniques is useful. Plagiarism tutorial: https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/ .
Meeting times:	Fridays 9:05 – 12:05 in SPEA Rm. 274
Instructor:	Joe Ryan
Office Hours:	Very welcome. Before or after class hours or by email request.
Course site:	Course communications will go through Canvas.

Course Description

This course supports your efforts to prepare for a career that involves low-income and middle-income developing economies, whether as a specialist in development (for example, with development assistance agencies or developing country institutions) or in a role that interacts with those economies (for example, with international business). The course also serves as part of your general education on important civic issues and provides a base for lifelong learning and career development.

As a result of your work in this course, you should be better able to prepare and deliver high-quality written and oral analyses and presentations of international development programs, projects, and ideas, reflecting your expanded knowledge in the following areas.

- Socioeconomic conditions in selected low- and middle-income countries (past and present, and trends).
- Real-world development policies and programs.
- The structures and roles of leading institutions engaged in international development.
- Social science theories that influence thinking and debate about initiatives for international development.

Required texts (On reserve for V-573 in the SPEA Library.)

Development Economics by Gérard Roland.

Economic Development: What Everyone Needs to Know by Marcelo Giugale.

Course activities

- 1- *Weekly class*
 - a. Students should use class time to interact with each other and with the professor, and to organize and discuss activities, including students' reading, writing, and presentation activities, as described below. Each student should plan ahead of each class at least one interaction (group planning discussion, question, feedback on an idea or thought, etc.) that will make class time beneficial.
 - b. Classes will also provide the traditional opportunity to get information and ideas from the professor and hopefully from invited speakers and online sources.

- 2- *Individual student themes*
- a. Each student will choose a theme to focus on through the course. This will be the subject of weekly briefing notes and a final synthesis at the end of the semester.
 - b. Each week, each student will write a one-page briefing note (in MS-Word or PDF format) relating the subject matters covered in the previous weeks to the student's theme. The weekly briefing note can be a policy memo such as might be addressed to an international organization, a government, or a development NGO.
 - c. Each briefing note should be posted on Canvas by Wednesday night for the professor's review starting Thursday.
 - d. Students should draw on their briefing notes for discussions in class, to inform and test ideas with other class members.
 - e. At the end of the semester, each student will draw on the semester's weekly briefing notes to produce a report on the chosen theme. The report should include an introduction and summary to make a coherent whole.
 - f. The deadline for submission of the report through Canvas is midnight Sunday before the Exam Week.
 - g. This report is in lieu of the final paper and contributes 30% to the course grade.
- 3- *Group presentations*
- a. During the first class, we will form groups of 2-3 students each to work on projects for class presentations.
 - b. Project themes might be suggested by a book on international development, or be related to a country or an event. (A list of some books on international development is provided separately.)
 - c. Groups will discuss project ideas in class and with the professor. Updates on progress will be discussed in class in the weeks before the presentation.
 - d. A presentation will be scheduled for each group. The presentation should last 15 minutes and use visual aids (slides) as needed. The presentation should be previewed with the professor.
 - e. The presentation will be followed by 10 to 15 minutes of questions, comments, and discussion in class.
 - f. This activity will contribute 20% of the final grade. Performance will be based on how informative and well organized the overall presentation is.

Grading breakdown

1. Briefing notes	30%
2. Final Report	30%
3. Group presentation	20%
4. Quizzes and class participation	20%

Grading policy

- The average grade is around B+ or A-
- Academic dishonesty will automatically result in an F
- Failure to meet a deadline below without prior permission will result in a grade reduction.

Announcements: All class announcements can be found by going to Canvas.

Laptop policy: Students are encouraged to bring Internet-capable laptops to class to facilitate in-class projects and research.

Class Schedule

- The schedule is subject to revision based on the actual progress made. Updates will be provided in class and through Canvas.
- Classes will include students' updates on progress in their themes and group presentations.
- Relevant chapters of the texts by Roland and Giugale are shown in the schedule. Additional readings will be recommended as the course progresses. ('E' means available in Ebrary; 'R' means on reserve at SPEA's library; others are available as files in this course's Canvas site.) Students should read these materials before the class where they are listed.

Week 1, Jan 16:

Planning Course's Activities
Poverty and Development

Week 2, Jan 23:

Characteristics of developing countries; Structural change
Roland chs. 1, 2, 3, and 5
Giugale chs. 3 and 4
World Bank, *Prosperity for All: Ending Extreme Poverty* (in Canvas course files).

Week 3, Jan 30:

Structural change and Development strategies
Roland chs. 4 and 5
Giugale chs. 2 and 5
Development Organization: USAID
Wikipedia article on USAID

Week 4, Feb 6:

Development Organization: Millennium Challenge Corporation
Speaker from the MCC
Growth Theory
Roland ch. 4

Week 5, Feb 13:

Growth Theory (continued)
Roland ch. 4

Week 6, Feb 20:

Knowledge Economy and Capacity Development
Roland ch. 4
World Bank, *Building Knowledge Economies*
Ryan, *Enabling Recipients as a Goal of Aid*

See also:

- World Bank, *Constructing Knowledge Societies*
- Task Force on Higher Education and Society, *Higher Education in Developing Countries: Peril and Progress* (and references at <http://www.tfhe.net/report/readreport.htm>)

Week 7, Feb 27:

International Trade and Exchange Rates

Roland, ch. 6

Little, Scitovsky, & Scott, *Industry and Trade in Some Developing Countries* (R)

Jeffrey Williamson, *Trade and Poverty: When the Third World Fell Behind* (E)

Development Organization: World Trade Organization

Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox* (ch. 4) (R)

Krugman, Obstfeld, & Melitz, *International Economics* (ch. 10, pp. 252-267) (R)

Week 8, March 6: continuation -- International Commerce and Finance

Week 9, March 13:

Speaker: Beth Rhyne (10:00), Center for Financial Inclusion:

<http://www.centerforfinancialinclusion.org>

<http://cfi-blog.org/>

<http://www.smartcampaign.org/>

MacPherson, *Hands Around the Globe* (R)

International Commerce -- completion

International Finance

(Spring Break, March 20)

Week 10, March 27:

Speaker: World Bank, Daniel Amponsah (9:30)

Development Organization: the World Bank

Reading: Shahid Yusuf, *Thirty Years of World Development Reports*

Group presentations:

Energy in Development

Foreign Aid

Exchange Rates and Currencies

Week 11, April 3:

Group presentations:

Urban Issues

East Asia - China

Credit and Finance: Organized Industry

Roland ch. 15

WB-Pakistan Financial Sector Assessment

Week 12, April 10:

Africa

Speaker: Jerry Wolgin, USAID and World Bank

Readings:

Giugale, ch. 6.

Collier, *The Bottom Billion* (Ebrary)

World Bank, Africa Regional Strategy

Group presentation: Democratization and Development

Credit and Finance: Small and Micro Enterprise Finance

Roland ch. 15

USAID microfinance blog: <https://www.microlinks.org/studying-past-looking-future-usaid-mpep-office-mini-blog-series>

Week 13, April 17:

Speaker: Christine Pendzich, USAID

UN Framework Convention for Climate Change

Group presentations:

Post-Conflict Development

Corruption in Foreign Aid

Fiscal Policy and Management

Roland, ch. 10, pp. 275-286; Giugale, ch. 2, pp. 37-42

Development Organizations: the IMF

IMF, *IMF Fiscal Affairs Department At a Glance, 2014*

IMF-Pakistan, (a) 2011 Article IV Review (b) December 2014 Letter of Intent

Delivering Infrastructure in Developing Countries

Roland, ch. 18

Week 14, Apr 24:

Speaker (11:00): Drew Schneider, Assistance Implementing Organizations

<http://getseriousaboutresults.blogspot.com/>

Group presentations:

Microfinance topic 1

Microfinance topic 2

Health

Roland ch. 16 (and ch. 3)

Schools

Roland ch. 17

World Bank, "LEAPS" report on schools in Pakistani Panjab

Week 15, May 1st:

SPEA Course Evaluation

Group presentation: Education and Development in South Asia

Course Wrap-Up

What did we cover?

What next?