Econ 6653: Development Economics II (PhD Level)

General Course Information
Class Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00-10:15am, 145 Cate Center One

Instructor Information
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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-2:00pm, 430 Cate Center One

This syllabus is a contract between you and me.
By taking this course, you agree to abide by the policies listed within.

Course Description:

This course is the second in the two-part PhD Development Economics sequence. Development Economics is a very broad field. In some sense, it encompasses all fields of economics, applied to the setting of low-income economies. The PhD Development Economics sequence provides an overview of the main areas of thinking, controversies, and research, with the aim of equipping students with the resources necessary to produce interesting and important research in the field. This process involves (a) becoming familiar with the background and current frontier of research, as well as (b) becoming familiar with the methodological tools necessary to draw useful and credible inferences about the world.

The first course in this two-part series focused on the evolution of development thinking, the economics of growth and structural change, the role of industrial policy, open economy macroeconomics, globalization in trade and finance, and institutions and development policies. This second course in the sequence will focus on more micro-oriented questions, studying the frontier of research in topics such as health, education, social safety nets, corruption, conflict, property rights, foreign aid, and institutional persistence, among other topics.

This is a graduate, seminar style course. Class meetings will be primarily discussion based, with some discussions led by the professor and others led by a student.

Prerequisites:

This course is designed for students in their second or third year of their PhD in Economics, who have completed their core exams and are beginning to focus on a more narrow field of study.

Readings:

The readings for this course will be posted on Canvas. There is no required textbook. Themes we will cover are subject to change based on time and class interest, but we will likely cover: health and nutrition, education, social safety net programs, corruption, conflict, property rights, foreign aid, and institutional persistence, among other topics.
Requirements and Grading:

1. **In-class Participation (20%)**
   Because this is a discussion-style course, student participation is vital. Students will be expected to come to class already having carefully reviewed the papers to be covered that day, and to participate actively in discussion of the material.

2. **In-class Presentations of Material (30%)**
   Each student will be assigned particular readings on which they will lead in-class discussion. The number of assignments per student will depend on total class enrollment, but students should expect to lead 3 in-class discussions over the course of the semester. The instructor will provide guidelines on what should be prepared for these presentations, and how they will be evaluated.

3. **Problem Sets (25%)**
   There will be two empirical problem sets assigned during the semester, which will require students to manipulate and analyze data using STATA statistical software.

4. **Referee Reports (25%)**
   Students will be asked to write two referee reports on papers written by individuals on the academic job market in Development Economics during 2019-2020. The instructor will provide guidelines on how these referee reports should be structured and what they should include.

University Policies:

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, and academic honesty. For further clarification please see: [http://integrity.ou.edu](http://integrity.ou.edu). In particular for this course, in order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed, cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment and may be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

**Religious Observance:** It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Additionally, students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website [http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html](http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html).

**Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues:** Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see [www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html) for commonly asked questions.

**Title IX Resources:** For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24.7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident.