



General Course Information

Instructor: Kurt Annen
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Office Location MacK 713
Office Hours T, Th 9:00 – 9:45
Department/School Department of Economics and Finance

TA Sergiy Pysarenko
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Office Location MacK 720
Office Hours TBA

Class Schedule: Lecture Section 1: T, Th 10:00 – 11:20 in Grhm 2310
Lecture Section 2: T, Th 2:30 – 3:50 in Mins 300
Lab 1: T 8:30 – 9:20 in MacS 311
Lab 2: F 9:30 – 10:20 in MacK 315
Lab 3: F 3:30 – 4:20 in MacS 311
Lab 4: F 8:30 – 9:20 in MacS 311

Pre-requisites: ECON*1050; ECON*1100

Co-requisites: ...

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to look at a comprehensive list of topics that are relevant for developing economies. It includes topics such as poverty & inequality, economic theories of growth, the role of governments in developing countries, natural resources, informal sector and micro finance, foreign aid, etc. These topics are analysed with an *economic* perspective. The objective is not only to enhance the students' knowledge on these topics, but also to enhance the students' understanding of the (economic) methods that are used to analyse these topics. In particular, research in international development relies heavily on the use of qualitative and quantitative data. For this reason, lectures will also be used to introduce students to basic data techniques and statistical concepts. Every lecture will devote about 15 minutes to a segment, which I call 'STATSimmersion.' In the Labs, students will work with quantitative data using Microsoft Excel. I strongly believe that a solid understanding of scientific methods is key for a successful career in international development. There are two in-class midterms and a final exam that count towards the final mark.

Indicative Content

| Week | Topic | STATSimmersion | Reading | Labs |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Week 1: Sept 1 | Course Overview and Organization | | | No labs |
| Week 2: Sept 8 | Incomes across Countries & World Poverty | Frequency Tables and Histograms | BD:2; E:1; HDR (2013) | Lab 1 |

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|-----------------|--|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Week 3: Sept 15 | Economic Theories of Development I: Convergence | Measures of Center & Variation | E:2+3 | Lab 2 |
| Week 4: Sept 22 | Economic Theories of Development II: Non-Convergence | Measures of Position: z Scores, Percentiles | E:8+9 | Lab 3 |
| Week 5: Sept 29 | Review Midterm 1 & Midterm 1 | (Th class cancelled) | | No labs |
| Week 6: Oct 6 | Inequality | Sample Mean and Confidence Interval | Sen (1997) | Lab 4 |
| Week 7: Oct 13 | Governments in Developing Countries & Corruption | Testing a Claim about a Mean; Testing Differences in the Mean | E:12; BD:3+10 | Lab 5 |
| Week 8: Oct 20 | Informal Sector & Micro Finance | Regression Estimation I | BD:6,7+8; Cull (2009) | Lab 6 |
| Week 9: Oct 27 | Review Midterm 2 & Midterm 2 | (Th class cancelled) | | No labs |
| Week 10: Nov 3 | Education | Regression Estimation II | BD:4; E:4 | Lab 7 |
| Week 11: Nov 10 | Natural Resources and Development | Regression Estimation III | van der Ploeg (2011) | Lab 8 |
| Week 12: Nov 17 | Foreign Aid | Regression Estimation IV | E:7+11; Sachs (2005) | Lab 9 |
| Week 13: Nov 24 | Foreign Aid and International Organizations | | E:2; Easterly (2003); | No labs |
| TBA | Final Exam | | | |

Course Assessment

| | | | Associated Learning Outcomes | Due Date/ location |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Assessment 1: | 20% | Midterm 1 | See below | Oct 2, 7:30 – 9:15 in THRNB 1200 |
| Assessment 2: | 20% | Midterm 2 | See below | Oct 30, 7:30 – 9:15 in THRNB 1200 |
| Assessment 3: | 60% | Final Exam | See below | TBA |
| Total | 100% | | | |

Course Resources

Required Texts:

- "The Elusive Quest for Growth," by William R. Easterly, MIT Press 2002.
- "Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty," by Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo, PublicAffairs 2012.

Course Policies

Grading Policies

In order to sign up for this class, you must assure that you do not have a conflict with any of the exams. Note that *the two midterms do not take place in class*. In case you have a conflict, make sure to discuss the conflict within the first two weeks of class with the instructor. If you miss one of the midterms, the missing midterm will count as 0% in the overall grade according to the weights indicated above unless suitable documentation is presented. In case you have a legitimate reason for missing a midterm (upon presentation of suitable documentation), the weight of the missed midterm (20%) is distributed equally over the remaining two exams.

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures

All electronic devices have to be switched off during class time. This includes smart phones and notebook computers. Have empty scrap paper with you at all times. Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2014-2015/>

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/economics/course-evaluation>

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is October 31st, 2014. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2014-2015/>

Course Learning Outcomes

e.g. Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- 1) Microeconomic Modeling: Using game theory and micro economic theory to understand incentive structures in the context of economic development.
- 2) Macroeconomic Modeling: Using macro economic growth models to understand income growth differences across countries.
- 3) Statistical and Econometric Methodology: Basic data analysis, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, and regression analysis.

Discipline/Professional and Transferable Skills:

- 4) Written communication: Exams consists in short-answer questions where students are required to give precise and concise written answers in limited space.
- 5) Problem Solving in a Real World Context (e.g., using models to explain income differences across countries)
- 6) Empirical testing in a Real World Context (e.g., gather data to describe income levels, inequality, investments, etc. across countries)
- 7) Computer skills: Using Excel to analyse statistical data.

Attitudes and Values:

- 8) Academic Integrity