

University of Oregon  
Department of Economics  
Spring Term 2016

ECON 390: PROBLEMS & ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

**Instructor:** Taylor McKenzie

**Office:** PLC 417

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays & Thursdays 11AM – 12PM

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**Course Description:** Development Economics is about the economic problems facing billions of people in low- and middle-income countries. It is also about enormous differences in living standards across the richest and poorest nations.

Nearly half of 6.1 billion people living in the developing nations lack access to safe sewers and a third have no access to clean water. The richest 20% of the world population consumes 86% percent of all goods and services while the poorest 20% consumes just 1.3%.

The objective of this course is to provide some understanding into these stark, and occasionally not-so-obvious, problems facing the world's people. Lectures will be non-technical, with occasional use of algebra. Ability to read and interpret graphs, as well as draw them, is especially useful.

**Canvas:** It is expected that you will see all announcements and files posted to Canvas. Either ensure that you have Canvas notifications set up, or make sure you regularly check the Canvas site for this class.

**Course Text:** One of the following textbooks (later referred to as TS):

- Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, *Economic Development*, 11th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2011.
- Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, *Economic Development*, 12th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2015.

You are responsible for getting one of these textbooks and keeping up with readings, which are listed below and will be regularly announced.

**Homework:** Homework will be given but will not be graded and is intended to help you understand the material and prepare you for quizzes and tests. You are expected to complete homework and compare your answers with the posted solutions. You are responsible for understanding material covered in homework and getting help if you need it.

**Quizzes:** There be quizzes approximately every week. These will include up to a few short questions about recently covered material. Questions may be similar to those seen on homework and will resemble questions on the midterm and final. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final score. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a zero on that quiz and can be counted as your lowest score. No makeup quizzes will be given. If you anticipate missing more than one quiz this quarter, please let me know as soon as you can.

**Grading:** There will be a midterm and a final. The final exam will be cumulative. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

<b>30%</b>	<b>QUIZZES</b>
<b>30%</b>	<b>MIDTERM – Thursday, April 28, 2016</b>
<b>40%</b>	<b>FINAL – Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 8:00AM</b>

No makeup exams will be given. In case of a missed midterm due to unanticipated emergency situations, the student will be allowed to put the weight of the missed exam on the final exam, provided I am notified as soon as possible and verification of the emergency is given. A missed final due to an unanticipated emergency will be handled with an “incomplete” for the course. Do not take this class if you already know you cannot make one of the scheduled exams.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** Academic dishonesty (from plagiarizing work to cheating on exams) will not be tolerated. Please acquaint yourself with the Student Conduct Code, which is published in the *Schedule of Classes* each term.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me during the first week of the term. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities (164 Oregon Hall) send me a letter verifying your disability.

**Outline of Course Material:** Below is a rough outline of the subjects we will cover in this class and their associated textbook chapters. We will roughly cover one topic per week, but will spend more time on some topics than others. Please look ahead to upcoming topics, if there are areas you would like to spend more time discussing, let me know and I can adjust the course to better match your interests.

**Topic 1:** Growth and Development: Issues and Debates.  
TS: Chapters 1 & 2

**Topic 2:** Theories of Growth and Development  
TS: Chapters 3 & 4

**Topic 3:** Poverty and Inequality  
TS: Chapter 5

**Topic 4:** Agriculture and Rural Development  
TS: Chapter 9

**Topic 5:** Population  
TS: Chapter 6

**Topic 6:** Education and Health  
TS: Chapter 8

**Topic 7:** Saving, Investment and Foreign Aid  
TS: Chapters 13, 14 & 15

**Topic 8: Trade and Globalization**

TS: Chapter 12

**Topic 9: Governance and Institutions**

TS: Chapter 11

**For Further Thought:**

To gain a deeper understanding of global issues in development, try these links

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org) (World Bank's website)

[www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/regions.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/regions.htm) (Information on various Countries and Regions)

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org) (United Nations Development Program)

[hdr.undp.org](http://hdr.undp.org) (Human Development Report published annually by the UN)