

**Georgetown Public Policy Institute
International Economic Development
Spring 2010**

Main objective: Economic development is one of the most challenging areas of study in economics. To study the development of societies we need to analyze the political, social and economic evolution and structure of countries and the place they have in the global system. The goal in this class will be to discuss the main factors that seem to affect the economic development of most countries and use this knowledge to analyze a case study. The application of the many ideas discussed in class should help each one of you to enhance your understanding not only of a particular country but also of the great complexity behind social and economic development. You will not leave this class with many answers, but rather with a deeper understanding of the type of questions that need to be asked to advance our inquiry and to formulate better policies.

Teaching approach: I strongly believe that Development is a field that you can only begin to understand by reading, discussing, reflecting upon and by formulating policy alternatives. For this reason I expect all of you to do the assigned readings and to come prepared to discuss the materials in class. I can only present and discuss the main points in class, but the subject matter requires that you engage in certain amount of reading and analysis outside the classroom.

Thematic coverage: the major themes to be covered during the semester, broadly speaking, discuss the meaning of economic development, measures of development, theories of development, poverty and inequality, population growth, urbanization and migration, health and education, policy formation, and the effect of global crises on economic development.

Each theme is broad and it may take us more than a class period to explore them, hence, depth, breadth and length of coverage will be contingent to the evolution of the class discussions and interests. Since many of the themes are intertwined we may at some points discuss some of them in more than one or two occasions.

Required textbook: *Economic Development* by Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, tenth or earlier editions, Pearson, Addison Wesley.

I will also assign other readings to be posted on Blackboard during the semester.

Class requirements: Attendance and participation (20%), a mid-term country report (35%) and a final country report (45%).

Please note: Each of the assignments is equivalent to a take-home exam.

Group work: It is optional. For each report you can work with up to two other students. Each person in the group will receive the same grade.

Deadlines:

1. **Choose a country:** by the second week
2. **Mid-term country report:** by the seventh week
3. **Final country report:** by finals week

How do you turn your work in? I would prefer it person. E-mail is an option if need to be.

If due to an extreme circumstance, to be evaluated by me as such, you miss or will miss a deadline you need to talk to me about.

Country report: you need to pick a less developed country from the list of countries to be found in the textbook, pages 38-39 in the ninth edition, pages 42-43 in the tenth edition of the book, and in chapter 2 in earlier editions. The country of your choice must be qualified as a low-income country (LIC), lower-medium income country (LMC) or upper-medium income country (UMC). Preferably, this country should be important enough so that you can find data and information to write your paper.

Mid-term country report: the mid-term country report is exploratory and descriptive in nature. This is where you search for as much data as possible on your country of choice. You will use the class discussion and the textbook as guidance into what type of data you are expected to report on and what are some of the relevant social, political and economic issues.

At this stage you are beginning to understand the country under study as you learn more about its data, its political system and its social history.

Typically you report on data on national income, gross domestic product per person, income distribution, poverty, unemployment, access to health, access to education, potable water, and other data to be discussed in class; another good reason to come to class all the time.

You need to show that your country of choice is underdeveloped and you need to show enough data to convince me that this is the case utilizing the class discussion and the assigned readings as your guide and intellectual support.

This is where reading the textbook and coming to class shall prove very helpful. You need to carefully read the textbook and use it, along with my lectures, as a guide into the information you will need to find and then and try to find data on your country from as many sources as possible other than the textbook.

I suggest many good sources of data below in the syllabus and GPPI has many outstanding resources at your disposal.

Length of the mid-term country report: I expect around 2 to 3 pages of information including at least 5 different serious, reputable and professional sources of information. Hence, do not use Wikipedia as one of your sources because it is not reputable. Instead, search for known sources of data such as the World Bank, the IMF, other United Nations institutions, Central Banks, country official statistical agencies, academic papers, and databases from different universities and research centers. The data is out there.

Final country report: in the mid-term country report you identified the main problems of the country under study. In the final report you will explain in detail what the government of the country under study is doing to address their problems and will also evaluate their appropriateness. I am not asking for your personal opinions or feelings here. I am asking you to elaborate an informed and educated analysis based on the materials you read from the textbook, other assigned readings, class discussion and other academic sources of information. In this section you must explicitly incorporate theories and ideas discussed in class and must also cite your sources besides the textbook.

I expect you to cite your sources following the model found in academic papers. Feel free to open any academic journal in economics to see how to cite your sources properly. We have plenty of them online via our library, like the Journal of Economic Development, the American Economic Review, The Journal of Economic Literature and many others.

You can find more information at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

However, there are many other sources to show you how to properly cite your sources in a college paper.

I expect a minimum of 10 academic sources cited in your reference list. They could include books, academic journals, newspaper articles, and articles in magazines. The quantity and quality of your sources will have a bearing on the paper's grade because they will help you support the credibility of your analysis and will exhibit your commitment to good academic work.

Finally, as with all college papers in all your classes, I expect acceptable grammar construction, appropriate spelling and some fluidity in the writing. Please, do not improvise. This is a graduate level paper.

A page with many resources is: http://www.oired.vt.edu/resanddev/links/dev_org.htm

The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund and The United Nations are among the many organizations that also provide data on economic development.

Hint: start your work early in the semester and check with me if you need guidance. Do not wait until it is too late. This is a complex job that requires time and effort.

Length of the final country report: I expect around 5 to 6 pages of actual analysis, excluding graphs, diagrams, bibliography, and other parts of the paper, where you show enough effort to apply what you have learned during the semester onto a case study. I will value quality over quantity, but both are important. This is your take-home final exam where you try to convince me that you have been to class, read the book and assignments and have done some analysis on your own applying all the information and ideas discussed in class.

Presentation of your work: each report must have a cover page with your name, and that of other authors if needed, the title of the class, the title of the report and my name. Each page in the report must have your name, and that of other authors if needed, in each page (use the heading option) and each page must be numbered. Please, staple all the pages together with the cover page if delivered in person.

Coverage of materials and announced dates are subject to change.