

Econ 175a
Introduction to Economics of Development

Instructor: Paul Deng
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Office Hours: T, Th 3-4pm
PhD Room in Sachar Hall

Overview

This course introduces you to an important branch of economics. Economics, as of today, has evolved into a complex system of many sub-fields and has certainly become much more advanced than the years of Adam Smith. However, economists have yet to figure out the panacea for development: the majority of poor countries still stay poor after all these years. So how do economists go about explaining this? What really matters to economic development? What are the roles of markets, technology, government, and other institutions?

In this course, we will constantly ask these interesting questions. To differentiate from other courses on economic development, this course will put a slight focus on the role of institutions. After completing the course, you should be able to appreciate more deeply the major issues in economics of development and how human beings respond to incentives and constraints.

Prerequisite: ECON 2a or permission of the instructor.

Course Materials

Required

1. Perkins, Dwight, et al. *Economics of Development*. 6th Edition. New York: Norton, 2006. (5th edition is also acceptable)
2. Easterly, William. *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002.

Recommended

Levitt, Steven, et al. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. New York: William Morrow, 2005.

Grading

Class participation:	10%
Homework:	15%
3 Quizzes:	15%
2 Midterms:	40%
One short essay:	20%

Class participation (10%): It is an essential part of the course. **Come fully prepared and actively take part in class discussions.** You can find the detailed guideline to class participation at http://www.econlearning.com/discussion_guideline.html.

Homework (15%): There will be approximately 6 homework assignments.

Quiz (15%): There will be three (3) small quizzes, each including **8-10 multiple-choice questions**. They are designed to help you refresh your memories and be prepared for the mid-term exams. All quizzes will be administered at the beginning of the class. The duration of each quiz will be **15 minutes**.

Two mid-term exams (40%): Each accounts for 20%. They are not comprehensive. No late make-up exams will be offered unless official proof of absolute emergency is provided.

One short essay (20%): Use what you have learned in class to analyze a real problem related to economic development. The essay should be concise and right to the point. I will not accept any essay exceeding six (6) pages (graphs and references not included). For details on my expectations of the essay and the guideline to write a good academic paper, please go to http://www.econlearning.com/paper_guideline.html.

Paper prospectus is due on March 6th. The deadline to submit your final paper is by 7pm, April 24th. For the final paper, you should submit both a print-out version (to my desk in PhD room) and an electronic version of your paper via email. Late submission will be penalized: your grade will be deducted by 10% for each-additional-day late.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually; see the University's Rights and Responsibilities handbook (sections 3 and 18-24) (<http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai/>). Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judiciary system. Sanctions may include failure in the course and suspension from Brandeis. If you have any questions about expectations, please ask.

Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University, and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

➔ **For course schedule**, please go to [econlearning.com](http://www.econlearning.com) for most recent updates.