Economics 765: Economic Development

Topics: This course is the first in a two-semester introduction to the field of development economics. Major topics include:

(1) Distribution and well-being: Poverty, inequality, and determinants of variation in the distribution of income across countries and over time.

(2) Agriculture: Agricultural markets, agricultural growth, agrarian structure, technological and institutional change.

(3) Environment: Investment in natural capital; adjustment of national accounts for environmental degradation; population policy debates; political economy of sustainable and non-sustainable development.

(4) External sector: External assistance, international finance, and political conditionality.

(5) Conflict: The economic implications of conflict and war-to-peace transitions.

Books: The following books are available for purchase at Amherst Books (8 Main St, Amherst). They are also on print reserve at the W.E.B. DuBois Library.


Other readings are available on the course Moodle site or, in cases indicated below, on print reserve at the library.

Assignments and expectations will be discussed in class.
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I. DISTRIBUTION AND WELL-BEING

(a) Development and welfare


(b) Inequality and poverty: Measurement issues


· Asterisks indicate readings to be done first for each section.


(c) **Distribution and growth**


II. AGRICULTURE

(a) Agrarian structure


(b) The ‘green revolution’


(c) Land markets & land redistribution


Handbook of Development Economics, Volume III. Amsterdam: Elsevier, Ch. 42.
[Ereserves]


(d) Genetic diversity and its erosion


III. ENVIRONMENT

(a) Externalities and development


(b) Sustainability


(c) Population growth


(d) Political economy of environmental degradation


(e) **Natural asset building**


### IV. EXTERNAL SECTOR

(a) **External indebtedness**


(b) **External assistance**


(c) **The state and the IFIs**

* Amsden, Alice H. (2001) *The Rise of “The Rest”: Challenges to the West from Late-


(d) Political conditionality


**V. CONFLICT**

(a) Causes of conflict


(b) **Humanitarian dilemmas**


(c) **War-to-peace transitions**


(d) The economics of statebuilding


Journal abbreviations:

AER American Economic Review
CJE Cambridge Journal of Economics
DC Development & Change
EDCC Economic Development and Cultural Change
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