

Economics of Developing Areas

Syllabus, Fall 2022

Econ 360-001 Fairfax Campus
Nguyen Engineering Building, Room 1109

Nicholas Wilson
Nwilso3@gmu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will study economic development; we'll put a particular focus on the determinants of economic growth such as the role of capital accumulation, population growth, human capital, technology, institutions, culture but also deep geographic and historical determinants. The class will focus primarily on a contemporary understanding of global society and may include a historical perspective to better provide global understanding.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Upon completing this course students should have a global understanding that will help students see the world from multiple perspectives.
2. Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies.
3. Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies.

EVALUATION

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Homework / discussion board 30%

Quizzes / attendance: 20%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam 30%

Late Policy: All assignments and due dates will be posted on and turned in using Blackboard. Late assignments will not be accepted, but I will drop your lowest homework grade. If you are having any issues please let me know as soon as possible.

Quizzes/in class work: Class quizzes/work can be made up by turning in a 400 to 600 word paper covering the relevant topic(s), due by email within one week of the missed class.

Disputing a grade: If you wish to dispute a grade you must let me know after class and submit a typed request making explicit reference to the problem(s) along with the original test within two class periods (one week) of the day I hand back the graded exams. I will then review your arguments and decide if a mistake was made. **Once the final exam is complete no work can be accepted and no grades can be changed**, even if there is a compelling issue.

OFFICE HOURS

I will try to be available after each class. You can also contact me via e-mail to set an appointment for Tuesday between 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

COURSE MATERIAL

Mandatory: William Easterly. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. MIT Press, Cambridge MA, 2001.

Optional: David Weil. *"Economic Growth"* 3rdEd, Routledge Publishing.

DISCUSSION BOARD

The discussion board has a "Guide" for each week. Each Guide states the topic(s) for the week, the readings, and has discussion "posts." For each post (usually 2 per guide) each student is expected to answer the question and respond to at least one other student. Responses to post can be a page or just a few sentences, but must show thought and understanding of the issue (not simply yes, no, I agree ...).

ASSIGNMENTS

Homework and dates are tentative and subject to change, to take into account current events or accommodate class discussion and student interest. See Blackboard for current and updated information.

- Student Resume: Each student is to submit a sample resume and cover letter.
- Join Facebook Discussion Board and complete FB Guides each week
- Watch video 12 min: "Is Most Published Research Wrong?"
- Use "Global wealth databook 2022" from the "Credit Suisse Research Institute" to write a 1-2 page paper about growth in poor countries
- Graphs and Tables: find 3 graphs and/or tables related to Economics of Growth or cross-country/culture economic comparisons.
- Abusing Environmentalism: watch Documentary, "Planet of the Humans" and complete short answer questions.
- US intervention in Cuba: Read provided documents on US intervention in Cuba and complete short answer questions
- Yeonmi Park Interview: Watch interview and write paper answering questions provided.

Important Dates, Fall 2021 Academic Calendar

Class: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30 am - 11:45 am

Mon. Aug 22 First Day of Fall Classes:

Mon. Sept 5 Labor Day: University Closed

Tue. Oct 11: Monday Classes/Labs Meet (**Tuesday Classes Do Not Meet This Week**)

Wed. Nov 23 Thanksgiving Recess: No Classes (University Closed Nov. 23-27)

Sat. Dec 3 Last Day of Classes

Tue. Dec 6 Reading Day: Optional study sessions (Mon. Dec 5 -Tue. Dec 6)

Examination Period: **Tue 13th 10:30 am - 1:15 pm** (Wed. Dec 7 -Wed. Dec 14)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Here you'll see a tentative outline of the course. I reserve the right to update the schedules as necessary to accommodate class discussion or coordinate with current events.

1. Week 1: Intro & Analysis (Tue. Aug 23)
 - Intro: EG-1, EQG-1
 - Analysis: EG-2
2. Week 2: Growth & Capital
 - Growth: EG-3
 - Capital & Aid: EQG- II & 2
3. Week 3: Solow Model
 - Mon. Sept 5 Labor Day: University Closed
 - Solow Model: EQG-3, EG-4
 - Labor & Population: EG-5, EQG-5
4. Week 4: Human Capital
 - Education: EG-6, EQG-4
 - Technology: EG-8, EG-9
5. Week 5: Productivity & Efficiency
 - Tech' Creative Destruction EQG-9
 - Productivity & Efficiency: EG-7, EG-10
6. Week 6: Wrap-up
 - Review
 - **Midterm Exam**
7. Week 7
 - Normative Considerations w.r.t. Development
 - Trade: EG-11
8. Week 8
 - Tue. Oct 11 Monday Classes Meet
 - Inequality: EG-13, EQG-10
9. Week 9
 - Geography & Climate: EG-15
 - Resources & Environment: EG-16
10. Week 10
 - Loans & debt: EQG-6, EQG-7
 - Incentives: EQG-III & 8
11. Week 11
 - Government: EG-12
12. Week 12
 - Corporations
13. Week 13
 - Culture: EG-14
14. Week 14
 - Corruption: EQG-12
 - Wed. Nov 23 Thanksgiving Recess
15. Week 15
 - Stability, War & Civil Unrest: EQG-13
 - Review
16. Week 16
 - Tue. Dec 6 Reading Day
 - **Final Exam: Tue 13th 10:30 am - 1:15 pm**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. I am glad to make accommodations for students with disabilities. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows: "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work." More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <http://oai.gmu.edu>