

**ECON 175A
INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS**

OVERVIEW

This course provides an introduction to the theories and empirics of development economics.

ECON 2A is a prerequisite for this course.

REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements include mandatory attendance at lectures, timely completion of assigned readings, problem sets, in-class presentation, two midterms, and a final exam. **The two midterms and final exam are closed-book, closed-notes exams.** Six problem sets will be assigned. **No late problem sets will be accepted.**

No makeup exams will be offered during the semester unless a student is forced to miss scheduled midterm exams due to documented serious illness or bereavement. A student who is unable to take the final examination for a legitimate reason must obtain advance authorization from the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

The weighting scheme for course requirements is as shown below:

Final Exam	30%
Midterm Exam I	20%
Midterm Exam II	20%
Problem Sets	15%
In Class Presentation	15%

IMPORTANT DATES

Exams: Midterm Exam I – Friday, September 25, In class
Midterm Exam II – Friday, October 30, In class
Final Exam – Friday, December 11, 1:30pm - 4:30pm (Block J)

Problem Sets: Problem Set 1 – Assigned on September 4, due on September 11
Problem Set 2 – Assigned on September 11, due on September 18
Problem Set 3 – Assigned on September 25, due on October 6
Problem Set 4 – Assigned on October 13, due on October 20
Problem Set 5 – Assigned on October 27, due on November 3
Problem Set 6 – Assigned on November 17, due on November 24

TEXTBOOK

Required: *The Economics of Development* by Perkins, et. al. Fifth edition.
Additional required readings will be posted on LATTE or distributed in class

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

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

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University's policies on academic integrity (see <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdje/ai/>). Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be vigorously prosecuted.

OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND RECOMMENDED READINGS

August 28: INTRODUCTION

Introduction – Perkins et. al., Chapter 1- Terminology, growth & development, approaches to development.

September 1, 4: INCOME LEVELS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic Growth: Theory and Empirical Patterns – Perkins et. al., Chapter 2 – Income levels and Economic growth, Harrod-Domar growth model, Solow growth model.

September 8, 11: POVERTY AND INEQUALITY MEASURES

Structural Change – Perkins et. al., Chapter 3 – Two sector models, empirical approaches.
Development and Human Welfare – Perkins, et. al., Chapter 4 – Income distribution, poverty and Inequality measures.

September 15: FOOD DEMAND, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH

Health and Nutrition – Perkins et. al., Chapter 10 – Health in developing countries, malnutrition.

September 18, 22: MIGRATION AND THE LABOR MARKET

Labor's Role – Perkins et. al., Chapter 8 – Migration, labor absorption through industrialization.
Labor – Ray, Chapter 13 – Poverty, nutrition and labor markets.

September 25, October 2: MIGRATION AND THE LABOR MARKET

Midterm Exam I – September 25, In class

WDR, 1995, Chapter 3 – Households, Growth, and Employment

October 6, 9: HUMAN CAPITAL AND NON-MARKET INVESTMENTS

Population – Perkins et. al., Chapter 7 – Investment in children.
“The Malthus Blues”. *Economist*. June 9, 2008
“The Marathon’s Not Over”. *Economist*. July 10, 2008

October 13, 16: CREDIT MARKETS

Credit – Ray, Chapter 14 – Rural credit markets, theories of informal credit markets.
“Waiving, Not Drowning”. *Economist*. July 3, 2008
“A Happy Roar from Kenya”. *Economist*. June 9, 2008

October 20, 23: MICRO-CREDIT

Pitt, Mark M. and Shahidur R. Khandker, “The Impact of Group-Based Credit on Poor Households in Bangladesh: Does the Gender of Participants Matter?” *Journal of Political Economy*, October 1998.
<http://www.bankertothepoor.com/bankertothepoor/index.php?p=1>. Accessed on July 23, 2008
“Doing Good By Doing Very Nicely Indeed”. *Economist*. June 26, 2008

October 27, October 30: EQUITY AND DEVELOPMENT

WDR, 2006, Chapter 2 – Inequity Within Countries: Individuals and Groups
Midterm Exam II – October 30, In class

November 3, 6: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable Development – Perkins et. al., Chapter 6 – Market failures, Property Rights, Policy Failures.
WDR, 1992, Chapter 1 – Development and the Environment: A False Dichotomy

November 10, 13, 17, 20:

In class presentations

November 24, December 1: REVIEW

Empirical practice and review for final exam

Final Exam – Friday, December 11, 1:30pm - 4:30pm (Block J)
