Subject

This course presents current work on economic growth, focusing on empirical and quantitative approaches.

Requirements

Students will be responsible for writing two papers: one very short one in the middle of the semester and a longer one at the end of the semester. One paper may be co-written with classmates. Students will also be required to present papers from the literature in class. There will not be any exams.

Outline and Readings

The reading list and course outline below are extremely tentative, with regard to both the selection of topics and the selection of articles within a topic. The list will evolve depending on feedback from students, new literature that appears, whims of the professor, etc.

Almost all of the articles on the reading list are either available in JSTOR or as PDF files somewhere on the web. Others will be made available by the professor. Ask if you can’t find something.

I have placed four copies of my book, Economic Growth (third edition) on reserve at the Rock. You can also find plenty of copies of the book floating around the department. The presentation in this textbook is at the undergraduate level, but the topics covered are many of the same ones addressed in our graduate classes. Students should read the book cover to cover within the first couple of weeks of class.
1. Overview and the Long Run


2. Measurement


3. Growth Regressions

Acemogu, Daron, *Economic Growth*, Chapter 3  (note: ch 1. is a general introduction to the issues, and ch 2. is a theoretical treatment of the Solow model)


Sala-i-Martin, Xavier “I Just Ran 2 Million Regressions” AER May 1997 (also NBER working paper, Dec 1997, “I Just Ran 4 Million Regressions”)


Nicola Gennaioli, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes and Andrei Shleifer, “Human Capital and Regional Development,” *QJE* 2013.


4. Persistence

**Fine-Scale Geography**


Ferdinand Rauch & Guy Michaels, Mimeo 2013. "*Resetting the Urban Network: 117-2012*,"

Fernihough, Alan, and Kevin O’Rourke, “Coal and the European Industrial Revolution” Mimeo, 2014,

**Countries**


Pritchett, Lant, “*Boom Towns and Ghost Countries*” *Brookings Trade Forum*, 2006

**Population Groups**


5. Development Accounting and Efficiency


Hsieh, Chang-Tai and Peter Klenow, “Development Accounting,” AEJ Macro 2010,

**Measuring Human Capital from Education**


Jones, Ben, “The Knowledge Trap: Human Capital and Growth Reconsidered” 2011


**Technology Transfer**


Acemoglu and Zilibotti, “Productivity Differences” QJE, 2001

**Direct Evidence on Efficiency**

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo , “Growth Theory through the Lens of Development Economics” Handbook of Economic Growth,


**6. History and Institutions**


http://ideas.repec.org/p/szg/worpap/0903.html

Feyrer and Sacerdote, “Colonialism and Modern Income: Islands as Natural Experiments” RESTAT, 2009
http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/rest.91.2.245


Trade
Frankel, Jeffrey, and David Romer, “Does Trade Cause Growth?” *American Economic Review* 89 (June, 1999), 379-399


Feyrer, James: “Distance, Trade, and Income -- The 1967 to 1975 Closing of the Suez Canal as a Natural Experiment,” mimeo, 2011


7. Structural Change


Kelley, Morgan “Dynamics of Smithian Growth” QJE Aug 1997


8. Health and Economic Growth


Ashraf, Lester, and Weil, “When Does Improving Health Raise GDP” NBER Macro Annual 2008 [on my web site]


Behrman, Jere, and Mark Rosenzweig, “The Returns to Birthweight,” RESTAT, 2004


9. Books to Read

Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics 2011

Acemoglu and Robinson, Why Nations Fail 2012

Deaton, Angus, The Great Escape 2013


Collier, Paul, The Bottom Billion 2007


Diamond, Jared, Guns, Germs, and Steel (1998)


Livi-Bacci, Massimo, A Concise History of World Population.


Wong, Michela, *It’s Our Turn to Eat: The Story of a Kenyan Whistle Blower*, 2009