

ECON 151 Economic Development

Tuesday & Thursday: 9-10:30am

Smith-Buonanno Hall 206

Section: Friday 12-12:50 (Salomon 001) / 3-3:50 (*Wilson 205*) cancelled

Website: http://www.econ.brown.edu/students/ishani_tewari/ec151

Instructor: Ishani Tewari

ishani_tewari@brown.edu

Robinson Hall basement

Office Hours: Friday 1-4pm or by appointment

Description

This course is an introduction to development economics, a field of economics that studies the economic transformation of low-income countries. We will understand underdevelopment through the lens of key economic concepts such as incomplete information and unenforceability of contracts that lead to emergence of particular economic interactions and institutions, which in turn imply aspects of the development process like inequality and externalities. The presence of imperfect markets also leads us to evaluate the role of government intervention and efficacy of policy.

Text & Readings

We will follow the following textbook very closely:

Debraj Ray, *Development Economics* (1998), Princeton University Press.

Occasionally, I will also provide you with articles, papers or stories that I find interesting and relevant to the topics under study.

Workload & Grading

There will be short weekly problem sets (mostly based on problems from the text) constituting 20% of your grade. A midterm exam and final exam will each be worth 30% and 50% respectively. Class participation will be considered in marginal cases.

Schedule

Week 1 (9/4): Introduction

Week 2 & 3 (9/9, 9/11, 9/16, 9/18): Theories of economic growth

- Chapter 2, 3
- Parts of Chapter 4, 5

Week 4 (9/23, 9/25): Economic Inequality

- Chapter 6, 7

Week 5 (9/30, 10/2): Poverty & Under nutrition

- Chapter 8

Week 6 & 7 (10/7, 10/9): Population & Health

- Chapter 9

Week 8 (10/14, 10/16): Rural-Urban

- Chapter 10

10/21-- Review

Week 9 (10/23): **Midterm Exam**

Week 10 (10/28, 10/30): Local Political Economy & Education

- TBA (Prof. Foster)

Week 11 (11/4, 11/6): Land

- Chapter 12

Week 12 (11/11, 11/13): Labor Markets

- Chapter 13

Week 13 & 14 (11/18, 11/20, 11/25): Credit

- Chapter 14

Week 15 (12/2, 12/4): Insurance

- Chapter 15

Week 16 (12/9): Review

12/12 (9am): **Final Exam**