WWS 479 - International Development
Spring 2009 Semester

Classes: M/W 11-11:50
Precept: There are three precepts offered.

Instructor: Alicia Adsera
Office hours Tuesday-Thursday 11-12, 347 Wallace Hall of by appointment
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TA: Carlos Velasco (cvelasco@princeton.edu) Office hours Monday 4-6 pm

Course Description

The course will focus on less developed countries and will consider topics such as economic
growth and personal well-being; economic inequality and poverty; intra-household resource
allocation and gender inequality; fertility and population change, credit markets and
microfinance; labor markets and trade policy. It will tackle these issues both theoretically and
empirically.

Please do not feel overwhelmed with the length of the syllabus. The reading list contains a
few required papers and then a bunch of additional recommended papers for those of you who
are interested in a particular subject. I will discuss some of the results in those papers but you do
not need to read them. Also some of the required papers may contain some statistical analysis
beyond the knowledge of many of you. I am completely aware of that. I only expect you to
understand the ideas and main results exposed in the paper. I will discuss them with you in class
& precepts.

Assignments
The basic textbook for the class is Development Economics by Debraj Ray (Princeton University
Many readings come from: Gerald Meier and James E. Rauch (eds.) Leading Issues in Economic
Around 100-120 pages of reading per week are expected. The assignments include a midterm,
three problem sets, one short 5-8 page paper expanding on the subject of one of the readings
assigned in class and a final.

Grading
Midterm 30% (in class March 10th)
Paper 10% (due by Dean’s date, May 12th )
3 Problem sets 15%
Final 45%

Schedule and Readings

The dates listed below are approximate and provided to give you a sense of the timing. Some
topics may take more or less time that the one listed.
**Introduction: Measuring Economic Development (February 2 & 4)**

Ray, Chapter 2


**Related Readings:**


Penn World Table, Center for International Comparisons University of Pennsylvania http://pwt.econ.upenn.edu/

**Origins of Poverty: Economic Growth (February 9, 11, 16, 18)**

Ray, Chapters 3 & 4


**Related Readings:**


**Geography, Institutions and Growth (February 23, 25 & March 1st)**


Bloom, David E. and Jeffrey Sachs, "Geography, Demography, and Economic Growth in Africa," *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* 2:207-295, 1998. (This is a long piece. Focus on the descriptive tables and the main ideas of the paper.)


E. L. Glaeser, R. La Porta, F. Lopez-de-Silanes and A. Shleifer ,Do Institutions Cause Growth?, *Journal of Economic Growth*, Volume 9, Number 3 / September, 2004, p. 271-303. (This is a technical paper. I do not expect everyone to understand the statistics. I just want you to read the results in the text. I will walk you through the results in class).


**Related Readings:**

Sachs, The end of poverty Chapter 2.


**Inequality: Measurement and Growth (March 4 & 9)**
Ray, Chapters 6, sections 7.1; 7.2.1 to 7.2.7 and 8.1 to 8.3


**Related Readings:**
Meier-Rauch, VIII.1


**Midterm (in class) March 11th**

3/14-22 spring recess. *Have a nice break!!*

**Inequality Capital Markets and Development (March 23, 25 & 30)**
Ray, chapter sections 7.2.8 & 7.2.9, section 8.4.1; Chapter 14

**Related Readings:**

Meier-Rauch, VII.B.4.


**Population Changes and Development (April 1 & 6)**
Ray, Chapter 9


*Related Readings:*


Meier-Rauch IV.C


**Labor Markets, Nutrition, Health and Intra-household allocation (April 8, 13 & 15)**
Ray Chapter 8.4.2 , 9.4.3& 13.4


Related Readings:
Meier-Rauch IV.D


Week 11 Foreign Aid (April 20 & 22)


Related Readings:

Week 12. Political Economy of Trade (April 27 & 29)

Ray Ch 18


Related Readings:

Ray, Chapters 16 & 17
Meier-Rauch, III.A & IX (other sections) (ex: Rodrik, Getting Interventions Right: How South Korea and Taiwan Grew Rich”)


