

ECON 8774: Development Economics I
Syllabus

Instructor: Murat F. Iyigun
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Class Schedule: MW 12:00 noon – 1:15 p.m. in Economics 5.

Office Hours: M 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and by appointment.

Textbook and Reading Materials:

There is no required text for this course. The lectures and discussion will be primarily based on journal articles and working papers in the reading list for this class (see below). In some lectures, I will rely on some of the textbooks listed on the same reading list.

Course Objectives: This class, together with ECON8784, is part of a development economics sequence. The sequence is designed for second or third year Ph.D. students who intend to specialize in the field and plan to conduct original theoretical and empirical research. ECON8774 will cover both theoretical and empirical issues in economic development, but the primary focus will be on the “big picture” macroeconomic and history of development side. The exception would be when I will delve into some of my more recent research interests in the field that have more of a micro/labor/household blend.

University Policies If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

We will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments. Please talk to me at the beginning of the semester, if you think you may require such accommodation. For university policies on this and on other things such as classroom behavior, see www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html.

Assignments:

1. During the course of the semester, you will be required to present in class two papers (that you will select based on your interests) from the reading list. The presentation should last about 40 minutes and help your fellow students grasp the main ideas of the paper. Each paper should be summarized and critiqued in a three-page report that should be handed in to me at the end of the presentation. Your grade will mostly depend on your critique and analysis of the article assignment.
2. The class participation grade will be based on your willingness to contribute meaningfully to class discussion during the paper presentations. It will help if you read the papers in advance.
3. I will ask you to write referee reports for 2 papers. Each referee report should be at least 3 pages double-spaced. The report should summarize the paper briefly and then critique it in detail. It should conclude with a publication recommendation and a justification for that decision.
4. There are three workshops this semester that I expect all students to attend: on February 19th, Robert Barro (Harvard); on March 4th, Peter Howitt (Brown); and on March 8th, Raquel Fernandez (NYU). Each student will write a report, not shorter than four double-spaced pages, on the paper presented by any of the three authors above. We will spend one class each on the discussion of the three presentations.
5. There will be a short final exam based on a format and topic that we shall agree upon as the class progresses. The final will be tailored to the individual and intended for one to make further progress on his or her Ph. D. thesis.

Grading: The following weights will be used to compute your final grade:

Article Presentations	25 percent
Class Participation	15 percent
Referee Reports	20 percent
Workshop Critique	20 percent
Final Exam	20 percent

Reading List:

<http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/courses/iyigun/E8774readlist.pdf>