Course Description: This course is an introduction to the field of Economic Development. The object of this course is to gain a greater understanding of economic development, to analyze economic problems of developing countries and to discuss strategies for achieving growth, reducing poverty and attaining sustainable development.

Course meets: Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 – 1:45pm in Building III – 4230.

Office Hours: MW 2pm by appointment, Bldg. II, Rm. 1352A-2.

Prerequisites: Students are expected to have taken an Introductory Microeconomics and Macroeconomics course.


Readings: Occasionally extra readings will be posted through Canvas.

Course Website: If you are registered for this course, you should use your directory ID and password to access Canvas at www.elms.umd.edu. Copies of this syllabus, homework assignments, your grades, and other relevant documents will be made available through the course website. Students are expected to check the website regularly.

Communication: Email is the best way of communicating with me. Please include ECON 315 in the subject of your email. I will do my best to respond within 36 hours. You will most likely receive a faster response if you email me directly (not through canvas).

Exams: There will be two midterms and a cumulative final exam. Midterm dates are subject to change. Schedule: Midterm 1: Oct. 5th (regular class time) Midterm 2: Nov. 9th (regular class time) Final: Friday December 18th, 8 – 10am

Make-up policy: Students are required to take both midterms and the final since these assessments are “major scheduled grading events”. Absences from exams must be fully documented and university authorized. Make-up exams will be granted only to those students whose excuse complies with University policy. If you believe you need a make-up, please inform me as far in advance as possible and at a minimum the day of the exam.
**Homework:** Homework problem sets will be given out occasionally, and are to be submitted through Canvas. Problem sets will be graded as “well done”, “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory”. Homework that is not handed in, is handed in late, or shows blatant lack of effort, will be deemed unsatisfactory. Independently of homework grading, working through problem sets is very useful for keeping up with material and making sure you understand key concepts. It is also a very good way to prepare for exams. It is ok to do homework with a classmate or in a group, as long as: 1) the group is not more than 4 people, 2) each student submits his/her own solution through Canvas and 3) any collaboration is documented at the top of the homework (by writing at the top of the first page of your homework the name of the students you worked with). Clearly, working together on a problem set does not mean copying solutions from a classmate. All problem sets will be discussed in class.

**In class exercises:** Lectures and homeworks will be complemented by in class exercises. These will be posted online and/or handed out in class, and we will go over their solution in class. You will be responsible for this material in exams.

**Quizzes:** Occasionally online quizzes will be used to make sure you are keep up to date will necessary material for lectures and in class discussions and exercises.

**Grading:** Final grades will be determined as follows

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
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<td>Midterm 2</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**Course Material:** To facilitate the learning process in this course, I post lecture outlines and other material of interest to the class. Please note that all my lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, quizzes, homeworks, exercises, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. *You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged without my express written consent.* Selling or distributing course materials may violate the Code of Student Conduct. Persons who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor’s course materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

**Attendance:** Attendance is not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

**Academic Integrity:** The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards applicable to all undergraduate students, and you are responsible for upholding these standards as you complete assignments and take exams in this
course. Please make yourself aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information see www.studenthonor council.umd.edu. If I observe what I believe is a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, I will refer any and all students involved to the Student Honor Council.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the University’s Disability Support Services (DSS) office and who provide me with an updated DSS form by Sept. 25th, 2015. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with the documentation in advance of exams.

**Course Evaluations:** I look forward to receiving your feedback on the course, both during and at the end of the semester. In particular, your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University.

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**Course outline:**

Please note this outline is subject to change! It is intended to give you a rough idea of what topics will be covered over certain dates during the semester and when you can (more or less) expect course work to be due.

**Week 1** (Aug. 31 – Sept. 4th): Introduction  
*Why study development economics?*  
INTRO: Video Pathways to Development, UNDP 2010  
Chapter 1

**Week 2** (Sept. 7th – 11th) Measuring Growth and Development  
*How do you measure development? What are some of the common indicators?*  
INTRO Video: Hans Rosling: The best stats you have ever seen.  
Chapter 2  
In class exercise

**Week 3** (Sept. 14th – 18th) Economic growth: key concepts and theories  
*What makes countries grow? What are some of the characteristics of high growth economies?*  
INTRO Reading: Economix, by Michael Goodwin, Chapter 1  
Chapter 3 and 4  
Quiz
Week 4 (Sept. 21st – 25th) Economic growth: key concepts and theories
What makes countries grow? What different theories have been put forward to explain growth?
Chapters 3 and 4
In class exercise
Homework 1

Week 5 (Sept. 28th – Oct. 2nd) Economic growth: key concepts and theories
What makes countries grow? What is the role of government in growth?
Parts of Chapter 5
Quiz 2
Review

Week 6 (Oct. 5th – 9th) Inequality and Poverty
What do we mean by inequality? How is inequality related to poverty and development?
MIDTERM 1 on MONDAY OCT. 5th.
INTRO: “Inequality for All”
Chapter 6

Week 7 (Oct. 12th – 16th) Inequality and Poverty
What do we mean by inequality? How is inequality related to poverty and development?
Chapter 6, Reading “What the Poor say”
Class exercise
Homework 2

Week 8 (Oct. 19th – 23rd) Population
What is the relationship between population growth and poverty? What are the causes of rapid population growth, the effects of such growth, and policy options?
INTRO: Video “7 Billion: How Did We Get So Big So Fast?”
Chapter 7
Quiz 3

Week 9 (Oct. 26th – 30th) Education
What is the relationship between education and development?
INTRO: Movie “Girl Rising”
Chapter 8
Class exercise

Week 10 (Nov. 2nd – 6th) Education
What is the relationship between education and development?
Chapter 8
Homework 3
Review
**Week 11** (Nov. 9th – 13th) Health

*What is the reality of health conditions in developing countries? What are some of the challenges to improving health conditions in developing countries?*

Chapter 9

Monday Nov 9th: MIDTERM 2

**Week 12** (Nov. 16th – 20th) Savings and Investment

*How do different sources of savings and investment affect growth and development?*

Parts of Chapter 10, 11 and 14

**Week 13** (Nov. 23rd – 27th) Savings and Investment

*What is the role of Foreign Direct Investment? What is the role of Foreign Aid?*

Parts of Chapter 10, 11 and 14

Quiz 4

Homework 4

Thursday Nov. 26th – Sunday Nov. 29th: THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week 14** (Nov. 30th – Dec. 4th) Agriculture and industry in development

*What is the role of agriculture in developing economies? How does industry affect development?*

Chapter 16 and 18

**Week 15** (Dec. 7th – 11th) REVIEW