

University of California, San Diego

Econ 116: Economic Development (Spring 2015)

Class time: Mon/Wed 5:00 – 6:20pm, Center Hall Room 113

Instructor: Prof. Karthik Muralidharan

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Office: Economics 315

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 – 12:00 (+ lunches to be scheduled)

**Course description:** This course is intended to provide an introduction to the problems of economic development in low-income countries and their interaction with developed economies. The first half of the course will focus on 'macro' topics in development (growth, history, geography, institutions, trade, and political economy), while the second half will focus on 'micro' topics in development (health, education, agriculture, migration, microfinance, and market imperfections). There is no text for this course. Readings will be posted on TED.

**Lectures:** The main form of instruction in this course is the lectures and you are expected to attend all lectures. Lectures will be posted online the previous evening. You can print these in advance for easier note taking. They will also be podcast to help you review materials and catch up on missed lectures. You are responsible for *all the material* and announcements in the lectures.

**Problem Sets:** There will be four problem sets. We will put up problems based on each week's materials by the end of the week, so you can start working on them early. But the problem sets will be due in 4 sets as indicated below. Problem sets are due at the START of lecture on the due dates. Answers will be posted on the course website soon after the due dates and **late problem sets will not be accepted**. If you will miss a lecture when a problem set is due, you can drop it off early with a TA or arrange with a friend to have it turned in at the lecture. Problem sets will have 4-5 questions each and are only graded on completion (1 point for each fully attempted question). You can work in groups, but each student must turn in their own problem set written up individually. Problem sets will not be corrected, but detailed answers will be posted shortly after they are due.

**Grading:** Your grade will be determined on the basis of problem set completion (20%), one midterm exam (30%) and a final exam (50%). The midterm will cover material based on the first four weeks (first 2 problem sets), and the final will be cumulative but put more weight on the materials covered in the last six weeks (last 2 problem sets).

The problem set dates and materials covered in them are:

	Date problems put up on course website	Due in class at the end of lecture on
Problem Set 1 (Wk 1-2)	2, 9 April	13 April
Problem Set 2 (Wk 3-4)	16, 21 April	27 April
Problem Set 3 (Wk 5-7)	7, 14 May	18 May
Problem Set 4 (Wk 8-10)	21, 28 May	3 June

The exam set dates and materials covered in them are:

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Midterm (Week 1-4)	29 April	In class (75 minutes)
Final (Cumulative, but will put more weight on week 5-10)	12 June	TBA (150 minutes)

**Review Sessions and TAs:** The TAs for this course are Sarojini Hirshleifer (shirshleifer@ucsd.edu), and Mauricio Romero (mtromero@ucsd.edu), and Wang Yang (yaw080@ucsd.edu) is a reader. The TA's will hold office hours and conduct weekly review sessions (which are *very highly* recommended). The TA's and reader will handle the grading. They are here to help you learn and attending sections/office hours with questions is one of the best ways to reinforce the materials that you may be seeing for the first time in class.

TA office hours will be announced in class and posted on the course website.

**Website:** Please check the course web site regularly. The web site will have problem sets and answers, the slides for each class, and all relevant information about the class. The website will also have any additional readings that are not on the list below that will be designated as required, recommended, or optional. You will be responsible for all readings designated as “required”.

### **COURSE OUTLINE (By Week)**

Week 1: Course overview and measurement of well being

Week 2: Growth models and Convergence; Foreign Aid

Week 3: Geography, Resources, Institutions, and Political Economy

Week 4: Trade and Technology Transfer

Week 5: Spillover from week 4 (1 lecture only)

### **MIDTERM (in class on 29 April 2015)**

Week 6: Human Capital: Education

Week 7: Human Capital: Education and Health

Week 8: Agriculture, Cities, Rural-Urban Migration

Week 9: Finance, Savings, Financial inclusion, Microfinance (spillover to next week)

Week 10: Reducing market frictions and imperfections (1 lecture only)

### **FINAL EXAMINATION (Friday 12 June 2015 from 7-10pm)**