

Syllabus for INTL 190 – Topics in Economic Development: South Asia

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Term: Winter 2017, Location & Timing: RBC 1301, Monday 10am-12:50pm.

Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm, Econ 318; email: prbharadwaj@ucsd.edu

Notes on grading:

- 20% Submitted discussion notes
- 20% Class participation and attendance
- 20% Midterm Paper (half of final paper)
- 40% final presentation and paper

Final Presentation: The final class is reserved for presentations. Each presentation will be 10-15 mins long (depends on final class enrollment).

Final Paper: For a country of your choice, pick a major policy/problem, and write a 20-page (double spaced, 1” margins) paper on how this issue is affecting development in that country. You are expected to provide a clear question (the narrower and more specific the question, the better off you are), and answer that question using arguments in various papers, books, journal articles etc – the paper *must* use at least 10 different sources to support your argument. **Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.** The paper **MUST** also contain a section where you produce some results using data on that country. I do not expect fancy statistical analysis – simple graphs or cross tabs can make for convincing arguments. At the same time, be sure not to confuse correlations with causations (more on this later in the syllabus).

On the day of lecture in Week 8 a midterm paper will be due. The midterm paper should be half of your final paper (10 pages, at least 5 sources etc). The idea is that the final paper will expand on this midterm paper. This is a graded assignment. I ask that you take this midterm paper very seriously. **Please only email me PDFs of the final paper.**

Picking a country: Pick a country and be ready to learn a lot about it during this course. You should pick a country that

- Interests you
- Has data available on key economic indicators like literacy, GDP per capita etc, preferably for a lengthy period of time (10 years or more)

How the class will work:

- Each class will be broken up into 2 segments – a lecture segment and a discussion segment
- I will lecture broadly on a topic (listed below) for the first hour or so
- The next hour or so will be dedicated to discussion on the country you have picked.
- Everyone submits a note on the discussion topic of the week – these notes should be 1 page long and can contain key graphs or figures that you are ready to discuss. I don't need a well thought out essay each week – just something to help you

guide your discussion. The notes can even appear as bullet points as long as they are written in coherent, full sentences. **Please bring a printed copy of these notes to class – DO NOT email them to me.**

- I will pick 2 people at the beginning of the discussion session to start talking about their discussion notes. You are expected to speak for 5 mins or so (or more if you want to). You might (and should) be interrupted by me or your classmates for clarifications or further questions on the topic.

Lectures

Week 1 January 9th – Introduction to Development; measuring development & theories of economic growth

Week 2 January 16th : No class (MLK day); please watch Guns, Germs and Steel (available on youtube) as homework

Week 3 January 23rd – History & Institutions in Economic Development

Readings:

Nathan Nunn “Historical Development” 7.1-7.5

Jared Diamond “What makes countries rich or poor?” New York Review of Books (Review of *Why Nations Fail*)

Discussion: Know the economic history of your country. When was it colonized? Was the slave trade present in your country? Know some facts about these. Also be ready to talk about modern day institutions like the legal & financial system etc. If ethnic/civil war is rife in your country, also talk about its origins and how that might be affecting the country’s future growth.

Week 4 January 30th – Program evaluation: How do we know policies are working?

Readings: TBD

Week 5 February 6th - Health Policy, HIV and Malaria in Developing Countries

Reading:

Millions Saved: Proven Successes in Global Health, Center for Global Development, Washington D.C. Read any 2 cases in depth. *Please visit*

<http://www.cgdev.org/page/case-studies> to access case studies.

Adhvaryu, Bharadwaj and Krumholz (2016): Early Childhood Health

Discussion: For the chosen country, find out the percentage of GDP that is allocated to health care, the prevalence of malnutrition, the maternal mortality ratio, and the percentage of the population with access to health care, safe water and sanitation. Figure out the current health climate and what issues are most important in that country. You can feel free to take up any disease or health concern like dengue fever, or ebola etc. How is the government trying to do to combat these? Present health statistics about your country. What is the AIDS prevalence? What are some of the current policies in place trying to

combat it? What economic indicators is AIDS prevalence correlated with? Do you find it is correlated with literacy, other diseases, income etc?

Week 6 February 13th : Educational challenges in developing countries

Reading:

Priorities for Primary Education Policy – Karthik Muralidharan

Discussion: For your country, please find out the percentage of GDP that is allocated to education, the primary, secondary and tertiary schooling completion rates for males and females, the average years of schooling for girls and boys, the female labor force participation rate, and any other indicators of educational attainment that are available and interesting. Comment on what you find. Some questions to think about: Do you believe that educational enrolment in your country has been improving over time? Has the gender gap been diminishing? Do you think this country has a “strong” educational system?

Week 7 February 20th President’s day, no class

Week 8 February 27th : Population & Environment **Midterm Paper Due**

Reading:

Demography, Growth and the Environment, *The Economist*, 2009

Sustainable development goals for a new era – Jeffery Sachs

Discussion: Does your country have a high rate of fertility? If so discuss possible reasons why. If not, have policies in the past, or growth rates in the past affected fertility rates today? Does your country face significant threat from climate change? What are some of these issues and what policies are being tested to mitigate problems?

Week 9 March 6th : Urbanization, Migration and Technology in Developing Countries

Readings:

Tavneet Suri and Billy Jack, 2009 “Mobile Money – The Economics of M-PESA”

Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, Sandip Sukhthankar (2014) “Building state capacity for better program implementation”

Discussion: pick a technology that you think is important for development and talk about whether you country has or lacks this technology. Again, some statistics would be very helpful.

Week 10 March 13th : In class presentations