

Professor: HAN Li
Email: lihan@ust.hk
Phone: 2358-7838
Office: Rm 3390
Office hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 am
or by appointment (online till further notice)

SSMA5210: Economic Development **Syllabus and Course Policies**

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 9 – 10:20 am (online until further notice)

Course Description: This course examines the economic situations of low and middle-income economies, considering many important topics in the field of development economics. It addresses questions such as what factors help explain why some countries are rich and others poor and whether economic policies can affect these factors. We will study key aspects of life for poor households in the developing world, such as inequality, gender and the intra-household division of resources, education, child labor, health, savings and credit, institutions and globalization. Students will also study recent research in the field and examine empirical evidence on these topics.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to, at an introductory level:

- demonstrate a comprehensive and well-founded knowledge of economic situations in the developing world.
- identify and explain critical issues in the developing world.
- apply core concepts of economics to critically analyze significant social phenomena and interpret important events related to the developing world.
- analyze the core issues in economic development strategies.

Basic training in economics will be very helpful. Students are encouraged to take SOSC 1440 or equivalent before this course. Although econometrics is not a formal prerequisite, comfort with statistical concepts will be helpful during discussions of empirical evidence.

Readings:

- Dwight H. Perkins, Steven Radelet and David L. Lindauer, *Economics of Development* 7th Edition (W. W. Norton, 2013). (referred to as Textbook in the reading list) Note: There is a student companion website to the textbook at wwnorton.com/studyspace which you may find helpful.
- Abhijit V. Banerjee, Roland Benabou and Dilip Mookherjee, Eds., *Understanding Poverty*. Oxford University Press, 2006. (softcopy can be accessed through HKUST library.)
- Supplemental readings are listed on the attached reading list. This is not a final list – required readings will be updated during the semester and made available online.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have the most current list of readings from the course website. Students are expected to understand the main points of these papers, but are not required to master technical materials in these readings that goes beyond the material covered in lecture.

- Additional readings are listed for students interested in further information. NOTE: Students are responsible for all materials covered in lecture regardless of whether the source is a supplemental reading or an additional reading.

Evaluation Method and Grading:

The final score is based on class participation, problem sets, the midterm exam, and the final exam/paper. For the final, students will take a close-book final exam.

The final grading scheme is as follows.

- 30% Final Exam
- 25% Midterm Exam
- 15% Reading report
- 15% Problem Sets (3 throughout the semester)
- 5% Class Participation (including class attendance and other in-class activities)

Key Dates: *Midterm Examination* – Oct 28 (in class, hopefully)
Final Examination – To be arranged by ARRO

Re-grade Policy: Requests for re-grading must be submitted in hard copy to me within one week of the return of that graded assignment or midterm exam to the class. The requests will NOT be processed until grades on final exams are available. I will consider the regarding requests when and only when it may affect the final scores. Please note that the entire exam, not just the part in question, is subject to re-grade. Thus, your total score may increase or decrease.

Exam Policy: The exams will cover materials in the required readings and all material presented in class. Exams will be closed book, closed notes. Programmable calculators, cell phones, PDAs, etc. are prohibited. There will be no make-up exams, except under extreme circumstances and with a note from your Dean. In such cases, you must notify me in advance via a phone call or email. Otherwise, you will get a zero. The make-up exam will consist of two parts: 1) a written test; 2) an oral exam.

Problem sets: Problem sets must be handed in at the beginning of class on the date they are due. Late problem sets will not be accepted. Problem sets are graded mostly on completeness and effort; it is the student's responsibility to check correctness with the solution sets.

Problem sets are meant to help students learn the materials and prepare for exams. Students may discuss the problems with other students, but each student must write up and hand in his or her own answers and list the names of any collaborators on the problem set (i.e., write "Discussed problems 1 and 2 with Harry") – this will not affect your grade but will help me in assessing where we are as a class. Please do not copy someone else's work – it will hardly help your grade since homework is only worth 15%. We will read your problem sets closely enough to know if you are copying someone else's answers. Plagiarism should be forwarded to the Honor Committee in the university.

Please turn in problem sets in good conditions. Please type your answers and staple the pages together (we will not be responsible if non-stapled sheets get separated). I reserve the right to cut 10% for poor problem set presentation.

Self-Assessment Questions: Practice questions will also be posted online along the way. An email alert will be sent to you when they are posted. These questions will NOT be counted into your final grade. Yet practicing these questions will help you understand the course materials and improve your performance in exams and problem sets.

Class Attendance and Participation: Class attendance is mandatory. **Make sure turn on your camera in online lectures.** You are responsible for ALL materials presented in lecture. Exams are likely to weigh this material quite heavily. Please make arrangements to get notes from a classmate if you cannot attend on a given day. I will take attendance during the first few weeks to help me learn names.

Participation in class is also recommended and will be much appreciated. Students are responsible for reading the required readings before each class and are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions. Please ask questions in class – if something is unclear to you, it is most likely unclear to other students as well. Also, please answer questions in class even if you are not sure you are correct. I reserve the right to cold-call and do the attention checks from time to time.

Honor System: I trust that every student in this course will comply with all the provisions of the honor code. You must “pledge” and sign your name on each exam. For problem sets, please see above. In addition:

- on exams, it is expected that you will neither receive nor give aid, nor access any material.
- during the entire semester, it is expected that you will not access anyone else’s old exams, problem sets or solution sets at any time.
- in the unlikely event that one of you observes an incidence of cheating or dishonesty, I expect you to contact an Honor Advisor immediately.

All alleged honor violations brought to my attention will be forwarded to the Honor Committee. If, in my judgment, it is beyond a reasonable doubt that a student has committed an honor violation on an exam, that student will receive an immediate grade of zero for that exam, regardless of any subsequent action taken by the Honor Committee.

Course Outline: Note: This is a preliminary list of topics; I may add topics, remove topics or switch the order of topics depending on how the class is progressing. Please see attached reading list for required and additional readings.

I. Introduction: What is Economic Development?

II. Determinants of Economic Growth

III. Inequality and Poverty

IV. Population, Fertility and Gender

V. Education (and Child Labor)

VI. Health

VII. Savings, Credit Markets and Microfinance

IX. Leaders and Institutions