

Economics of Developing Areas - Econ 360

Fall 2010

Thursday 7:20 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Robinson Hall B 104

**Instructor: Marta Podemska Mikluch**

Email: [mpodemsk@gmu.edu](mailto:mpodemsk@gmu.edu)

Office Hours: Thursday 5 p.m. to 7:00 pm and by appointment at Enterprise Hall 338

**Course objectives**

Economics is first and foremost a way of thinking. Thus, the major course objective is for students to have the ability to critically analyze complex social problems. Throughout the course students will be encouraged to develop and learn to apply analytical skills. Moreover, at the end of the semester students should be able to demonstrate a strong understanding of development conundrum. They should be familiar with the forefronts of development literature and with public policy approaches to development problems.

**Prerequisites**

Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 103) and Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 104)

**Readings**

1. Dwight H. Perkins, Steven Radelet, David L. Lindauer. 2006. Economics of Development Sixth Edition
2. Easterly, William. 2002. The Elusive Quest for Growth. MIT Press.
3. Easterly, William. 2006. The White Man's Burden. Oxford University Press.
4. Powell, Bill. Ed. 2007. Making Poor Nations Rich. (optional)
5. Other readings – to be assigned in class

Expect for the assigned textbooks, all reading materials will be provided to students electronically via blackboard.

## Grading Policy

To be successful in this class you need to read the assigned material, analyze it, and actively participate in the discussions. I will offer you a multiple opportunities to demonstrate your learning potential. As such, your final grade will constitute of:

1. Participation in the class and on-line discussions – 10%
2. Homework (weekly on-line quizzes) - 40%
3. Group presentation (including outline and paper) – 15 %
4. Midterm Exam – 15 %
5. Final Exam – 20 %

### The Grading Scale:

A+	96+	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	<60
A	94-95	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	64-67		
A-	90-93	B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		

**Disability statement**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Honor Code Statement**

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited.

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

See [honorcode.gmu.edu](http://honorcode.gmu.edu) for more detailed information.

**Enrollment statement**

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.

Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website [registrar.gmu.edu](http://registrar.gmu.edu).)

- Last day to drop with no tuition penalty - September 14
- Last day to add classes - all individualized section forms due September 14
- Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty - September 21
- Last day to drop with a 67% tuition penalty - October 1
- Last day to drop October – October 1

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

Economics of Developing Areas - Tentative Class Outline  
Fall 2010, Instructor: Marta Podemska Mikluch

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings <sup>1</sup>
WEEK 1 9/2/2010	Why Study Development Economics – Introduction	
WEEK 2 9/9/2010	Patterns of Development and Economic Growth	PRL: chapters 1 and 2 <sup>2</sup> Easterly 2002: chapter 1 Romer: “Economic Growth” <sup>3</sup>
WEEK 3 9/16/2010	Theory of Economic Growth	PRL: chapters 3 and 4 Easterly 2002: chapters 2 and 3
WEEK 4 9/23/2010	States and Markets Capitalism versus Socialism	PRL: chapter 5 Hayek: “The Use of Knowledge in Society”
WEEK 5 9/30/201	Planners versus Searchers in the Struggle Against Poverty	Easterly 2006: chapters 1 - 3
WEEK 6 10/7/2010	Distribution and Human Resources	Easterly 2002: chapters 4 and 5 Easterly 2006: chapter 7 *PRL: chapters 6 – 9
WEEK 7 10/14/2010	Is America Number One? ABC special from 1999 by John Stossel <b>Midterm</b>	
WEEK 8 10/21/2010	Entrepreneurship and Economic Freedom	PRL: chapters 10 and 11 Powell: chapters 2-5
WEEK 9 10/28/2010	Institutions and Growth <b>Group Paper Proposals are Due</b>	Easterly 2002: chapters 8-10
WEEK 10 11/4/2010	Politics without Romance Bureaucracy and Corruption	PRL: chapters 12 and 13 Easterly 2002: chapters 11-13 Easterly 2006: chapter 4
WEEK 11 11/11/2010	Accountability in the Credit Markets	PRL: chapters 14 and 15 Easterly 2002: chapters 6-7 Easterly 2006: chapter 6
WEEK 12 11/18/2010	Future of Development <b>Group Papers are Due</b>	Easterly 2002 chapter 14 Easterly 2006 chapter 10-11
WEEK 13 11/25/2010	Thanksgiving Break	
WEEK 14 12/2/2010	Group Presentations and Discussions	Powell: chapters 10 and 11
WEEK 15 12/9/2010	Group Presentations and Discussions	Powell: chapter 14
Week 16 12/16/2010	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> 7:30 pm – 10:15 pm	

<sup>1</sup> To be read ahead of class

<sup>2</sup> PRL refers to Dwight H. Perkins, Steven Radelet, David L. Lindauer. 2006. Economics of Development Sixth Edition

<sup>3</sup> Available on Blackboard with other readings