

Selected Topics in Economics

Economics 482

Section: D200

Term: 2011 Spring

Instructor: F. Aragon

Discussion Topics:

This course studies the main issues in growth and development from an empirical perspective. The crucial question in this course is what determines the prosperity of societies. To address this question, we will discuss the relevant theoretical arguments and review the available empirical evidence.

The course has a strong bias towards empirical work. As part of the course, students are expected to develop and exercise their ability to assess the merits and limitations of the empirical evidence. Hence a reasonable background on applied econometrics is a prerequisite. That said, the empirical focus does not imply disregard for economic theory. We will discuss several economic models that will provide us with a framework to interpret the empirical results and ask additional questions.

The starting point of the lectures is the observation that economic growth lies at the heart of economic development. We first discuss the macro economic factors (such as capital accumulation and institutions) and its contribution to economic growth. Then, we move towards microeconomic and policy issues such as agriculture and land reform, industrial organization, property rights, infrastructure, education and health, microfinance, natural resources and governance.

Grading:

Presentations and essays	20%	
Participation		10%
Mid Term Exam	30%	
Final Exam		40%

Required Texts:

There is not textbook for this course. Instead, we will use several journal and working papers available online. The reading list will be available at the beginning of the course.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ECON 302 and BUEC 333

Notes:

**NO TUTORIALS
DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES**

Selected Topics in Economics

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities at 778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca

All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic dishonesty (S 10.02 and S 10.03).

These policies are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/files/Students/S10.02.pdf>

and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/files/Students/S10.03.pdf>

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.