Syllabus

Course Content: The purpose of this course is to tackle a simple yet fundamental question: Why isn’t the whole world developed? Obviously, there are many reasons for the disparity in living standards between advanced, newly-industrialized, and developing countries. Leading explanations for economic development, or the lack thereof, that will be discussed in class include population growth and demographic transition, national savings and capital accumulation, human capital formation, income inequality, the role of the government and its institutions, climate and natural resources, and international integration.

Lectures, Problem Sets and Exams: You are responsible for all the material and announcements in the lectures. If you miss one, borrow someone’s notes. I will distribute a number of problem sets which allow you to test your familiarity with the course material. The problem sets are also designed to prepare you for the midterm exams. The problem sets will not be graded! There will be two midterm exams. Instead of a final exam you will be asked to write a country report on a developing country of your choice. The report must be written jointly with one or two other students from your class. At the end of the semester, each student group will be asked to give a 25-minute presentation detailing the main findings and insights of the group’s report.

Grading: Your grade will be determined on the midterm exams (25% each), the country report (30%), and the class presentation (20%). While attendance is not mandatory in general, all students must attend the five class days with student presentations. Failure to show up during one of these days will lower your total point accumulation for this course and may thus negatively affect your overall grade.

Differentiation between BA/BS and MA students: The midterm exam for undergraduate students consists of a certain number of questions to be answered within the 80-minute time limit. MA students face the same time constraint but will be given additional questions. In addition, the minimal number of type written pages for the country report (excluding tables, graphs, etc) is 15 for undergraduate students and 20 for MA students.

Teaching Assistant: Your TA for this course is Sumanee Suppakornsai. Her office hours are by appointment only. E-mail: ssuppako@mail.smu.edu
Disability Accommodations: If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Key to Success: Here are some strategies that may help you to succeed in this course:

- Come to class as often as possible.
- Keep your lecture notes as complete and accurate as possible. They will be your major source of preparation for the exams.
- After each class, go through your lecture notes and the assigned readings. Make sure you understand them. If you have questions, come and see me during my office hours or make an appointment.
- Do the homework sets carefully! Work them through repeatedly because many exam questions will be modified versions of the problem set questions.
- Carefully read the instructions on my website regarding the content of the country report! The more closely you follow these instructions, the greater the likelihood of a positive outcome.
- Take enough time to prepare your in-class presentation. Practice your presentation in front of a friend or a group of friends. Time management is important: you don’t want to finish early or run out-of-time at the end.

Readings: The text for this course is: E. W. Nafziger: Economic Development, 4th edition, 2006, hereafter called ”NAF”.

2
Course Outline

1. Introduction (NAF, Ch. 1 and 2)
2. Population Growth and Demographic Transition (NAF, Ch. 8)
3. Domestic Savings and Capital Accumulation
   - Solow’s Neo-Classical Growth Model (NAF, Ch. 5)
   - Lewis’ Two-Sector Model (NAF, Ch. 5)
4. Human Capital Formation
   - Education (NAF, Ch. 10)
   - Health (NAF, Ch. 10)
   - Nutrition (NAF, Ch. 10)

First Midterm Exam (Thursday, September 28th)

5. Poverty and Income Inequality (HR, Ch. 6)
6. The Role of the Government
   - Choice of the Economic System (HR, Ch. 18)
   - Government Institutions (HR, Ch. 4, pp 107-119)
7. Climate and Natural Resources
   - Climate (NAF, Ch. 13, reading assignment)
   - Natural Resources (NAF, Ch. 13)
8. International Links
   - International Trade (NAF, Ch. 17)
   - Foreign Investment, Foreign Aid, and Remittances (NAF, Ch. 15)

Second Midterm Exam (Tuesday, November 7th)

Student presentations I: Tuesday, November 14th
Student presentations II: Thursday, November 16th
Student presentations III: Tuesday, November 21st
Student presentations IV: Tuesday, November 28th
Student presentations V: Thursday, December 7th (8-11am)

Country Report due: Thursday, December 7th, at 11am