Economic Development
Eco 334
Fall 2007

Professor: Li Qi
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Web site: Blackboard
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

♦ Course objective: Why do some people around the world have more food to eat, better shelter and public services, while others live on less than a dollar per day? How do geography, urbanization, agricultural productivity, education and technology affect development in a particular country? How do the global economy and its institutions affect development around the world? How can we compare the development experiences of countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and East Europe? The objective of Development Economics is to provide some answers to these questions by using the available models in development theory, and studying real-world country cases.

♦ Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm at G13 Buttrick Hall. PDF files of lectures’ slides are posted on Blackboard under “Course Documents”. Print the slides before coming to class so that you can take notes on them. Please note that you can help to conserve paper by selecting to print multiple slides on each page.


♦ Selecting a country: Each student will select a developing country at the beginning of the semester. Choose a developing country you have been to, your ancestors are from, your best friend is from, or simply you would like to know more about. The idea is that you become an expert on that country during the course. There are two activities in the class that will make you an expert in the country of your choice: first, you have to keep updated on the economic and political news of the country in order to participate in “Developing World News”, as explained below. Second, sometimes homework and writing assignments will involve finding data on the country in order to describe the different issues we will study in class, such as growth, poverty, inequality, urbanization, education, agriculture, the environment, trade and foreign aid.

♦ Writing assignments: There will be a total of six writing assignments during the term. Only the best 5 out of 6 will be counted towards the final grade of the course. Assignment # 4 will consist of assembling the revisions of Assignments #1, #2, and #3 in one preliminary term paper. Assignment # 6 will consist of assembling the revisions of
Assignments #4 and #5 in one final paper. In general, writing assignments consist of finding data from the country of your choice and discussing different aspects of economic development in that country. You should be prepared to discuss your answers with your classmates. Throughout the semester we will have special in-class sessions where you will share your findings from these writing assignments with the rest of the class.

♦ Homework/Writing assignments policy:

- To get full credit for your assignments, you must hand them in on time, that is, at the end of the class on the due date.

- Homework handed in after the end of class on the due date is considered late homework. If you are late, you can still hand it in within 3 days, but you will only get half of the credit. After three days you will get no credit.

- Once you get your homework back, you have one week to request grade revision. Keep your homework on a safe place, since you may need it later in case of any grade clarification.

- Students requesting revision of a homework grade must submit their claim in writing, no later than one week after the grades have been distributed. Please include a brief argument/reasoning for grade change. For example, if you feel that your answers are correct but you did not get the credit, list reasons or evidence to support your argument.

♦ The “Developing World News”: As part of some of the lectures throughout the semester we will have our “Developing World News”. The objective of this activity is to enhance your involvement in our class by allowing you to participate more, while also learning about what is going on in developing countries around the world. Students should be prepared to report the news from the country each selected, along with a brief analysis using the concepts learned in class. Students will be selected to be the “reporters of the day.” Unprepared “reporters” will get a reduction on the participation grade.

♦ Attendance and Class Participation: Academic work is the heart of the college experience and academic success at Agnes Scott College is directly related to class attendance. Attendance is part of the student’s overall responsibility and performance in a given course.

Attendance will be checked randomly and frequently throughout the semester. Attendance will count only if you arrive within 10 minutes of the class start time. You are allowed to drop one no-show record at the end of the semester, but you will lose part of the attendance and participation credit for this class if you have more than one no-show records. You may be excused from absence in the case of serious illness, and death of an immediate family member only when written evidence is provided. Absence due to observance of religious holidays and other sporting events sponsored by our college is excused only if you provide the instructor with advance notification.
Class participation includes discussion, reporting “Developing World News,” sharing findings from your writing assignments with the class etc. Failure to participate in these activities will result in a reduction on participation grade.

If a student becomes seriously ill or injured or experiences an emergency that will require her to miss academic work, she should notify the office of the dean of students (x6391) as soon as possible to inform the college of her situation.

A student on academic probation is permitted only one absence in each academic course that is not due to serious illness, death of an immediate family member, and religious observance.

♦ **Exams and Grading:** There will be three exams. Only the best 2 out of 3 exams will be counted towards the final grade of the course. Please check the exam dates on the last page of the syllabus.

The final grade will be a weighted average as follows:

- Two best exams 25% each (total 50%)
- Writing assignments 30%
- Attendance 10%
- Class Participation 10%

The course letter grades are determined as follows:

- 96 – 100  A +
- 92 – 95.99  A
- 90 – 91.99  A –
- 86 – 89.99  B +
- 82 – 85.99  B
- 80 – 81.99  B –
- 76 – 79.99  C +
- 72 – 75.99  C
- 70 – 71.99  C –
- 66 – 69.99  D +
- 62 – 65.99  D
- 60 – 61.99  D –
- <= 60    F

♦ **Exam policy:**

- Since you are already given an exam that you can drop for the final course grade, **no make-up exams will be made.**

- Only in very exceptional cases (such as serious illness and death of an immediate family member), students may be excused from missing an exam. Enough **written**
evidence of the calamity must be provided. I will give make-up exams only when the conditions just specified are met.

• Students requesting revision of an exam grade must submit their claim in writing, no later than one week after the exam grades have been distributed. Please include a brief argument/reasoning for grade change. For example, if you feel that your answers are correct but you did not get the credit, list reasons or evidence to support your argument.
## Reading List and Course Outline (tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Chapters: TS // E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Introduction and a global perspective</td>
<td>1 // 1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Developing nations</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>Developing nations &amp; sharing findings from assignment 1&lt;br&gt;Sep 12 Writing Assignment # 1 due</td>
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<td>Sep 13</td>
<td>Lessons from history</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 18 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Theories of development</td>
<td>4 // 2, 3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Theories of development&lt;br&gt;Sep 28 Writing Assignment # 2 due</td>
<td>4 // 8, 9, 10</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>Videos for Theories of Development&lt;br&gt;(Commanding Heights)</td>
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<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Modern growth theory</td>
<td>5 // 11, 12, 13</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 9 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Review Session&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;First exam&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>Poverty and inequality</td>
<td>6 // 4</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 23</td>
<td>Poverty and inequality&lt;br&gt;Oct 24 Writing Assignment # 3 due</td>
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<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Videos for Poverty and inequality</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>Population growth</td>
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<td>Population growth</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Urbanization</td>
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<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Urbanization&lt;br&gt;&amp; Sharing findings from assignment 4&lt;br&gt;Nov 9 Writing Assignment # 4 due</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>Agriculture/Environment</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Review Session</td>
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### 2. DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND POLICIES

- **Oct 16**: Poverty and inequality<br>Oct 24 Writing Assignment # 3 due
- **Oct 25**: Videos for Poverty and inequality
- **Nov 1**: Population growth
- **Nov 8**: Urbanization & Sharing findings from assignment 4<br>Nov 9 Writing Assignment # 4 due
- **Nov 13**: Agriculture/Environment
- **Nov 15**: Review Session
- **Nov 20**: **Second exam**
3. INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND POLICIES

14 Nov 27  Trade  12
Nov 28 Writing Assignment # 5 due  13
Nov 29  Trade

15 Dec 4  Foreign aid and debt  14, 15 // 6, 7
Dec 6  review session
Dec 7 Writing Assignment # 6 due

Third exam