

COURSE CONTENT

Course Coordinator	Akshar Saxena / James Ang
Course Code	HE2010/HE3021
Course Title	Development Economics
Pre-requisites	HE1001 Microeconomics I/HE1002 Macroeconomics I/ HE9091 Principles of Economics/HE5091 Principles of Economics/ AB0901 Principles of Economics: A Singapore Perspective
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39 hours (2 Lecture hours and 1 Tutorial hour per week)

Course Aims

This course will focus on *microeconomic* analysis of issues in developing countries. The main question will be: what can be done to help the world's poor to improve their wellbeing? Through this course, you will gain a basic understanding of development economics in topics such as poverty, health, education, and governance. You will also have the opportunity to connect these theoretical ideas to real world issues.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Identify and explain important issues in development economics especially those at the micro level.
2. Apply ideas and theories from academic writings to real world examples.
3. Analyze issues in development economics using tools from microeconomics and econometrics.
4. Appraise development policies in different countries.

Course Content

Development economics is a large field that includes health, education, market, and institutional failures. We will focus on *microeconomic* issues in developing countries. The main question will be: what can be done to help the world's poor to improve their wellbeing? Issues covered here will not be exhaustive, but we will try to cover the major issues.

There will be five main parts to the course. The first part is an introduction to classical development theories with a focus on the concepts and intuitions. The second and longest part will cover human capital, followed by physical capital, financial capital, and institution. The empirical evidence will come from various developing countries in Africa, South America, and Asia. Aided by the recent development of Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) and behavioral development economics, we will be able to examine many issues at individual level.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Continuous Assessment	:	<u>100%</u>
Total	:	<u>100%</u>

Reading and References

1. [TS] Michael P. Todaro and Stephan C. Smith, Economic Development, 12th Ed., Pearson 2015.
2. [BD] Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Poor Economics, 1st Ed., PublicAffairs.
3. Journal articles will also be assigned for group discussions and term projects. [TS] is mainly used for introducing key concepts, theories, and applications. [BD] is used for case studies and discussions.

Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Email
Akshar Saxena	SHHK 04-38	aksharsaxena@ntu.edu.sg
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Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
Week 1	Introduction and Overview	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 2.3, 5.4, 5.5
Week 2	Economic Growth	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]Ch 3
Week 3	Economic Growth	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]4.2-4.4
Week 4	Human Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 7.5, 7.6 [BD]Ch 5
Week 5	Human Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]8.1-8.3, 8.6, 8.7 [BD]Ch 3
Week 6	Human Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]8.4, 8.5 [BD]Ch 4
Week 7	Human Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	Journal Article
Week 8	Physical Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]7.3, 7.3, 7.6
Week 9	Physical Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]10.3, 10.4
Week 10	Financial Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]15.1 15.3 [BD]Ch 7
Week 11	Financial Capital	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]13.2-13.4
Week 12	Institutions	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]11.2-11.5, 11.9 [BD]Ch 10
Week 13	Institutions	LO1, LO2, LO3 and LO4	[TS]15.6 [BD]Ch 9