Office hours.

Monday 9.45-12.20. Room 500, 264 Bay State Rd.

Course content.

Issues in measuring economic growth and poverty are outlined first, followed by a review of theories of growth and empirical evidence, accounting for differences in growth performance. The focus then shifts to some of the key factors affecting economic progress. On each topic, consideration is given to both policy attempts to improve performance and some of the relevant, empirical evidence surrounding these attempts. Topics include: savings and credit markets; official development assistance (aid); labor markets and internal migration; education; health and population; international trade, industrial policy and direct investment; international migration; governance and corruption; and the conflict-development nexus.

Prerequisites

CAS EC201 and CAS EC202 or equivalent, or consent of instructor.

Requirements

The requirements for this course are fourfold: a midterm examination, a final examination, presentation of a project and class participation.

The mid-term examination will be held during class time on Wednesday, October 16th.

The final examination is cumulative; data and time to be set by the Registrar.

Both examinations are required. The only excuses for missing an exam are serious illness or a family emergency. No make-up exam will be set for the midterm. Instead, students unable to attend the midterm examination for a legitimate reason will receive a course-grade determined by performance on the final examination. Students entitled to extra time on examinations should inform Professor Lucas of this in the first two weeks of classes.

Each student is required to prepare a project to be presented in class on Power Point. The project should address an important issue that has faced a particular country, any policy attempt to tackle the issue, and data demonstrating whether the policy appears to have succeeded. The chosen country must be among the Low, Lower-Middle or Upper-Middle Income countries.¹ All Power Points must be submitted by email to the Teaching Assistant (Mengqi Deng mdeng@bu.edu) NO LATER THAN 5 PM ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15. Any presentations arriving after this deadline will receive a grade of zero. Presentations will probably be limited to about 10 minutes. Students are encouraged to discuss their project during office hours with Professor Lucas.

¹ See https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519#Low_income.
Class participation includes: attending every class (unless excused), arriving on time, contributing to class discussions/question time (which will be at the beginning of each class).

The grade for this course is divided up as follows:

- Midterm examination 30%
- Final examination 45%
- Project presentation 15%
- Class participation 10%

A note on some data sources


Household surveys of developing countries are also available:


The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) [https://www.dhsprogram.com/Data/](https://www.dhsprogram.com/Data/)

Academic conduct

You need to read the CAS Academic Conduct Code, which you can pick up in room CAS B3. Academic misconduct involves not only direct cheating on tests, but some more subtle acts as well. All work handed in for credit must be your own, with the exception that you may quote or paraphrase from other sources if you also cite the reference and page number. (It is not permissible, however, to use another student's work even if you cite that work.) Your consultations with classmates should be limited to general discussions. I will report cases of suspected academic misconduct to the Dean's Office. Confirmed cases of misconduct will result in a failing grade on the exam or assignment.

Reading materials

There is no text book assigned for this course. Instead readings will be placed on Blackboard.
Topics and Readings.

September 4. Organization meeting.


Measuring growth.


Household surveys.


Measuring inequality and poverty.


Ravallion, M., S. Chen and P. Sangraula. Unpublished. “Dollar a day revisited”.

Experiments.


(especially Section 1: Standard primal growth accounting).


September 23. Saving and credit markets.

September 25. Foreign aid.


September 30-October 2. Labor markets and internal migration.


October 7-9. Education. Note Tuesday-Wednesday classes.


October 15 (TUESDAY). Review session.

October 16. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.


November 6-11. International migration.


November 18. The conflict-development nexus.


November 20. Project presentations.
November 25. Project presentations.
December 2. Project presentations.
December 4. Project presentations.
December 9. Project presentations.

December 11. Review session.