Office hours.

Monday 12.30-2.20; Wednesday 11.30-12.20. 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 17th. 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 will 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. (See https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519#Low_income). All Power Points must be submitted by email to the Teaching Assistant (to be announced) NO LATER THAN 5 PM on Friday November 19. Any presentations arriving after this deadline will receive a grade of zero. The Power-Points will be loaded onto Blackboard. Presentations will probably be limited to about 10-15 minutes (including discussion), so the Power-Point should typically be less than ten slides. The time-limit is to be determined by the class size and will be set once the class-size
is established. A student-discussant will be appointed for each presentation. Students are encouraged to discuss their project during office hours with Professor Lucas.

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), and the role as discussant for the project presentations.

The grade for this course is divided up as follows:

- Midterm examination  30%
- Final examination     40%
- Project presentation 20%
- Class participation   10%

A note on some data sources

For time-series data on developing countries see the World Development Indicators

Household surveys of developing countries are also available:

The Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS)

The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
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 textbook assigned for this course. Instead readings will be placed on Blackboard.
Topics and Readings.

September 5. Organization meeting.

September 10-12. Issues in measurement.

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 24. Saving and credit markets.

September 26. Foreign aid.


October 1-3. Labor markets and internal migration.


October 9-10. Education. Note Tuesday-Wednesday classes.


October 15. Review session.

October 17. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.

October 22-24. Health and population.


October 29-November 5. International trade, industrial policy and direct investment.

November 7-12. International migration.


November 19. The conflict-development nexus.


November 26. Project presentations.
November 28. Project presentations.
December 3. Project presentations.
December 5. Project presentations.

December 12. Review session.