Development Economics - ECON 7560  
Syllabus, Spring 2021  

T/TH 2:00-3:20 PM, IVC  

Codrina Rada  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics, University of Utah  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Office # 4134, rada@economics.utah.edu  

A. Course Overview:  
I have designed this PhD course on the development with two goals in mind: to give you a broad perspective of (mostly) macro issues of development in the non-industrialized world and to introduce you to main theoretical perspectives and models of development. Development economics, needless to say, is a very comprehensive subject which uses tools and approaches from all fields of economics. Therefore, in one semester we will touch only on a selected few of the building blocks of development economics. I chose the readings such that you are exposed to ideas and perspectives from heterodox and mainstream economists alike, although most of the models we will work on are coming from economists from the heterodox and classical schools of economic thought.  

B. Course Objectives:  
At the end of the course, a successful student will:  
[1] Become familiar with the tenets of main schools of economic development.  
[2] Understand the general principles and approaches to development based on a review of economic history and history of economic policies. Within this objective the student will gain familiarity with issues of development facing people primarily in the non-industrialized countries.  
[3] Become familiar with main models of growth and development especially in the context of structural change.  
[4] Develop skills necessary in conducting original research on topics of economic development.  

Useful books:  
Ocampo, Jose Antonio and Codrina Rada and Lance Taylor (2009), *Growth and Policy in Developing Countries*, Columbia University Press.  

C. Course Organization:  
Class sessions will follow a standard lecture/discussion format.  
Canvas: Study guides, readings, announcements or any other materials pertaining to the course will be posted on Canvas. You can access the Canvas from your own U of U’s portal (or account) at my.utah.edu. Many of the readings are uploaded on Canvas under the “Readings” folder. The other are on reserve in the library (go to the library website and under Course Reserves search for Rada-von Arnim). You may check the books out for 4 hours.  

D. Course Requirements:  
Two short referee reports (max. 5 pages) discussing the assigned (two) papers: 15% each=30% total  
Leading the class discussion based on referee reports: 5% each=10% total  
Term paper=40%; Term paper proposal=5%; Final paper presentation=10%; Class participation=5%  
Two short referee reports: You will review two papers of your choice from the “Discussion Readings” sections. These reports should outline the paper’s research question, method, assumptions, and findings. You may also add suggestions for improvement or elaborate on implications for policy. You will use these reports to generate class discussion during the assigned lecture time. The articles will be “booked” on a first-come, first-served basis.
Term paper: The term paper should focus on a well-defined topic in development economics. To help you choose wisely a (doable) topic you can provide a list of potential topics that we can discuss during office hours. If you need this option please send me a list of topics/ideas and make an appointment with me before **February 15**. Once we will agree upon a topic you will elaborate on your research question in more detail in a 3-5 page **proposal** which is due **March 1**. The proposal should outline the importance of the topic for development, the methods and data you intend to use as well as some of the relevant literature. **The final paper is due on May 10** and it should be about 20 pages in length.

E. Course Outline and Readings:

1. Economic development: meaning, origins, measurements

   1.1 WEEK 1: What is development? Concepts and conceptual framework

   **A. Main readings**


   **B. Supplemental readings**


   **1.2 WEEK 2/3: Origins of development economics**

   **A. Main readings**


B. Supplemental readings

1.3 WEEK 1/2: What is development? Empirics

A. Main readings


Regional experiences:


B. Supplemental readings and data:

Maddison, Angus. 2001. The World Economy - A Millennial Perspective: Development Centre of the OECD, chapter 3


C. Discussion readings (1/16 session):

2. Economic growth theories and development

2.1 WEEK 3/4: Economic growth and growth diagnostics

A. Main readings


B. Supplemental Readings


C. Discussion readings:


2.2 Week 4/5: Economic growth and development: introduction, one-sector models, closures

A. Main readings


B. Supplemental Readings


### 2.3 WEEK 5/6: Technology, endogenous growth models and development

**A. Main Readings**


**B. Supplemental Readings**


**C. Discussion Readings**


### 2.4 Week 6/7: Structural change, growth and development: surveys and setting the stage

**A. Main Readings**


B. Supplemental Readings


Ocampo, Jose Antonio and Codrina Rada and Lance Taylor (2009), Growth and Policy in Developing Countries, Columbia University Press. chapter 8.

Herrendorf, Berthold, Richard Rogerson and Akos Valentinyi, 2014, "Growth and Structural Transformation" Handbook of Economic Growth, Chapter 6, Volume 2B.

C. Discussion Readings


2.5 Week 9/10: Structural change theory and models: structuralist and dual economy models

A. Main Readings


B. Supplemental Readings


Ocampo, Jose Antonio and Codrina Rada and Lance Taylor (2009), Growth and Policy in Developing Countries, chapter 3, Columbia University Press.

C. Discussion readings


2.6 Week 9/10: Structural change theory and models: classical models

A. Main Readings


B. Supplemental Readings


C. Discussion readings


2.7 Week 11/12: Structural change theory and models: recent (neoclassical) literature

A. Main Readings

a. Structural change and non-balanced aggregate growth


b. Structural change and balanced aggregate growth


3. WEEK 13: International trade, integration and development

A. Main Readings


B. Supplemental Readings


Ocampo, Jose Antonio and Codrina Rada and Lance Taylor (2009), Growth and Policy in Developing Countries, Columbia University Press. chapter 4.


C. Discussion Readings

4. Week 14: Institutions and Development

A. Main Readings


B. Supplemental Readings


C. Discussion Readings