

Syllabus

Development Economics I: Macro Issues in Economic Development

(Entwicklungsökonomik I: Makrofragen wirtschaftlicher Entwicklung)

Winter semester 2024/25

(as of October 21, 2024)

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1. General information

1.1 Course content

This course provides an overview of development economics, with particular emphasis on macro issues in economic development. The most important topics to be covered are the measurement and meaning of economic development, theoretical and empirical growth research, trade and development,

poverty, inequality, development cooperation, environmental problems, capital flows, and foreign debt. More specifically, the course covers the following topics:

1.	What is development? An introduction	Monday, October 21
2.	Measuring development	Wednesday, October 23
3.	History of underdevelopment I	Monday, November 4
4.	History of underdevelopment II	Wednesday, November 6
5.	Growth theory	Monday, October 28
6.	Growth empirics	Wednesday, October 30
-.	Guest lecture	Monday, November 11
7.	Political institutions and development	Wednesday, November 13
8.	Development and inequality	Monday, November 18
9.	Globalization and development	Wednesday, November 20
10.	Development aid	Wednesday, November 27
11.	Industrial policy	Wednesday, December 4
12.	Summary and outlook	Wednesday, December 11

1.2 Course goals

The course will provide participants with the theoretical foundations of various approaches to economic development; equip participants with the basic techniques and concepts to analyze growth with empirical methods and to test alternative theories; allow participants to grasp the core implications of one theory versus another and to derive from that the contrasting policy implications; and provide students with an overview over some of the main debates in development economics.

1.3 Prerequisites

No formal requirements, but knowledge in the following areas is highly recommended: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics at the Bachelor level. It is recommended that students take Econometrics I (M.WIWI-QMW.0004.Mp) at the same time (if you have not completed this or a similar course in a previous semester).

1.4 Credit points

6 ECTS-LP (lecture: 2 SWS; exercise session: 2 SWS).

1.5 Registration

Please register via FlexNow.

2. Course overview

2.1 Description of the teaching and learning methods

The lecture is supplemented by self-study based on provided materials and literature. The accompanying exercise session deepens the analytical concepts, applies them to practical examples, and discusses the experiences of individual countries. **The course language is English.**

This course is part of a two-course cycle on development economics (Development Economics I & II). For students in the MSc Development Economics, both courses are compulsory. For students in the MSc International Economics, it is recommended to take at least I or II if they would like to follow a specialization in development economics.

2.2 Meetings

Lecture (*Vorlesung*):

- Each Monday, 18:00-19:30 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#), from October 21 until November 18
- Each Wednesday, 8:30-10:00 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#), from October 23 until December 11 (or December 18 if we need a substitute meeting)

Guest lecture (*Gastvorlesung*):

Austin Strange, University of Hong Kong: “The Political Logics of Chinese Global Infrastructure” (Monday, November 11)

Infrastructure is a major component of China's presence in global development and is also central to larger debates about China's evolving roles in the world economy and international politics. This talk will present a comprehensive account of major, Chinese government-financed infrastructure projects across the Global South since 1949 to the present day. New historical and contemporary datasets show Chinese global infrastructure's distinctiveness in terms of its historical tenacity and massive contemporary scope. The data include hundreds of 20th-century overseas infrastructure projects that predate contemporary China's infrastructure spree during the Going Out strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative. These projects and their underlying political logics suggest that global infrastructure will remain a crucial component of China's role in international development even as the BRI evolves toward smaller, more sustainable, and digital infrastructure forms. The talk will also feature new

findings from analyses of observational and experimental data on how overseas infrastructure projects relate to China's international influence.

Weekly exercise sessions (*Übung*):

- Each Thursday, two alternative time slots, from October 24 to December 19
 - o Option 1: 16:00-17:30 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#)
 - o Option 2: 18:00-19:30 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#)
- Each Monday, two alternative time slots, from November 25 to December 16
 - o Option 1: 16:00-17:30 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#)
 - o Option 2: 18:00-19:30 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#)

Exercise session	Content	Time	TA
1	Interpretation of regression tables	Thursday, October 24	Siewers
2	PS1	Thursday, November 7	Turbanisch
3	PS2	Thursday, November 14	Turbanisch
4	PS3	Thursday, November 21	Turbanisch
5	PS4	Monday, November 25	Turbanisch
6	PS5	Thursday, November 28	Turbanisch
7	PS6	Monday, December 2	Turbanisch
8	PS7	Thursday, December 5	Turbanisch
9	PS8	Monday, December 9	Turbanisch
10	PS9	Thursday, December 12	Turbanisch
11	PS10	Monday, December 16	Turbanisch
12	PS11	Thursday, December 19	Turbanisch

Communication:

Instead of emails, we will use the two communication fora on Stud.IP (one for content-related and one for organizational questions).

2.3 Examination and grading of the module

Final exam (duration: 90 minutes) [6C]

- First exam date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 8:00-10:00, [Room see EXA](#)

- Second exam date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 8:00-10:00, [Room see EXA](#)

IMPORTANT: In order to be admitted to the exam, the following prerequisites must be completed: Submission of six exercise sheets (of sufficient quality) out of ten. Please note that submission is only possible for problem sets 1 through 10. That means that no submission is possible for the last problem set (problem set 11).

2.4 Course materials

- Todaro, Michael P., and Stephen C. Smith (2020). *Economic Development*, 13th Edition. Harlow: Person Education.
- Perkins, Dwight H., Steven Radelet, David D. Lindauer, and Steven A. Block (2012) *Economics of Development*, 7th Edition. New York & London: W.W. Norton.
- The required and recommended readings on each topic will be announced in the reading list.
- All lecture slides and exercise questions will be published on Stud.IP.

Note: Dates and contents subject to change!