

Syllabus

Development Economics I: Macro Issues in Economic Development

(Entwicklungsökonomik I: Makrofragen wirtschaftlicher Entwicklung)

Winter semester 2026/27

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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	Tuesday, October 27
2.	Measuring development	Wednesday, October 28
3.	History of underdevelopment I	Tuesday, November 3
4.	History of underdevelopment II	Wednesday, November 4
5.	Growth I	Tuesday, November 10
6.	Growth II	Wednesday, November 11
7.	Political institutions and development	Tuesday, November 17
8.	Globalization and development	Wednesday, November 18
9.	Natural resources and development	Wednesday, November 25
10.	Development aid	Tuesday, December 1
11.	Industrial policy	Wednesday, December 2
12.	Current topics in development	Wednesday, December 16

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 Tuesday, 16:15-17:45 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#), from October 27 until November 17
- Each Wednesday, 10:15-11:45 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#), from October 28 until December 16
- There will be a tutorial instead of a lecture on December 9 (10:15-11:45 Option 1; 13:00-14:30 Option 2). On December 1 there will be a lecture (14:14-15:45) instead of a tutorial.

Guest lecture (*Gastvorlesung*):

Digital Development Dialogue (3D) seminar (tbc)

Weekly exercise sessions (*Übung*):

- Each Thursday, two alternative time slots, from October 29 to December 17
 - o Option 1: 14:15-15:45 (s.t.), Room see EXA
 - o Option 2: 16:15-17:45 (s.t.), Room see EXA
- Each Tuesday, two alternative time slots, from November 24 to December 15
 - o Option 1: 14:15-15:45 (s.t.), Room see EXA
 - o Option 2: 16:15-17:45 (s.t.), Room see EXA
- There will be a tutorial instead of a lecture on December 9 (10:15-11:45 Option 1; 13:00-14:30 Option 2). On December 1 there will be a lecture (14:14-15:45) instead of a tutorial.

Exercise session	Content	Time	TA
1	Interpretation of regression tables	Thursday, October 29	Cäcilia Stapper
2	PS1	Thursday, November 5	Julian Mayrhuber
3	PS2	Thursday, November 12	Julian Mayrhuber
4	PS3	Thursday, November 19	Julian Mayrhuber
5	PS4	Tuesday, November 24	Cäcilia Stapper
6	PS5	Thursday, November 26	Cäcilia Stapper
7	PS6	Thursday, December 3	Cäcilia Stapper
8	PS7	Tuesday, December 8	Cäcilia Stapper
9	PS8	Wednesday, December 9	Cäcilia Stapper
10	PS9	Thursday, December 10	Cäcilia Stapper
11	PS10	Tuesday, December 15	Cäcilia Stapper
12	Q&A	Thursday, December 17	Cäcilia Stapper

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 13, 2027, 10:00-12:00, Room see EXA
- Second exam date: Wednesday, April 7, 2027, 10:00-12:00, Room see EXA

IMPORTANT: In order to be admitted to the exam, the following prerequisites must be completed: Successful completion of 6 short quizzes (minimum passing score: at least 60% of the total points), administered at the beginning of each exercise session. The quizzes are based on problem set exercises that deepen the understanding of concepts and empirical methods taught in the lecture and apply them to specific cases.

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!