Syllabus

Introduction to Development Economics

Lecturer: Assistant Professor Anja Tolonen
Office Lehman 012
Office hours Tue 10-12
Class time: Tuesday, Thursday, TBA
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Prerequisites:
Permission of the Instructor. No course requirements.

Course Description:
Despite unprecedented improvements in global living standards, as monitored for example by the Millennium Development Goals, many challenges remain. This course aims to develop an understanding of causes and consequences of development trajectories through applying theories developed within, and outside, the field of economics in the last century. Literature will come from economics, political science as well as anthropology. Introducing the student to economic methodology, the course will cover growth theory starting with the Solow model and following the evolution of the field to the very recent empirical revolution in understanding of economic development. The course will discuss the crosscutting themes of gender equality and environmental sustainability, while approaching topics within economic growth, population growth, human capital, health, agriculture, urbanization, natural resources, conflict, and institutions.

Literature
Development Economics by Gerard Roland (main textbook).
The Age of Sustainable Development by Jeffrey D. Sachs
Development as Freedom by Amartya Sen

Learning Outcomes
Students completing this seminar will:

• Develop skills for analyzing current development issues in a global context.
• Become familiar with traditional economic concepts of economic growth and recent empirical approaches to evaluating development practices.
• Think critically about recent development policies, such as the Millennium Development Goal and the Sustainable Development Goals.
• Apply basic skills of empirical reasoning to current development economic problems.
• Gain confidence in analyzing and evaluating texts and research relating to development.