

Foundations of Development Economics

AAE 642

Professor Paul Castañeda Dower

Spring 2022

1 Preliminaries

Course schedule: TuTh 9:30am-10:45am
Office: 411 Taylor Hall
E-mail: pdower@wisc.edu
Office Hours: Wed. 1:30-2:30pm
Credit Hours: 3 Credits
Course URL: canvas.wisc.edu/courses/295068
Course Materials: readings available on course website

2 Course description

This course provides an overview of development economics. The topics covered include the concept of development, the measurement of poverty, inequality, and factor misallocation, theories of economic growth, human capital accumulation (and policies to encourage accumulation), agricultural household models, technology adoption, migration, credit, savings and insurance and the political economy of development. We will cover both basic theory and empirical applications.

Prerequisites: AAE 635 and 636 or equivalent.

3 Learning objectives

Students should leave this course with the following set of knowledge:

- CLO1** Articulate and critique theories of development economics, including basic closed and open economy macroeconomic models, microeconomic models of individual and household decisions to invest in human capital, agricultural household models, models of credit and insurance markets in developing countries, and a basic understanding of technology adoption decisions.
- CLO2** Calculate measures of poverty and inequality using household data.
- CLO3** Identify and apply empirical approaches used to analyze problems in development, including the use of observational data, both cross-sectional and panel, natural experiments, and intentional experiments.
- CLO4** Use economic models and empirical methods to evaluate development policy or issues relevant to developing economies and be able to clearly communicate this analysis orally and in writing.

4 Course requirements

4.1 Participation

This is a graduate course. You are expected to come prepared to discuss and analyze the readings.

4.2 Discussion classes

Throughout the semester, you will be asked to make and assist with short paper presentations. You will be expected to give a 15-20min conference-style presentation of the paper. We will then discuss the paper as a class. These papers are marked with **(A)** or **(B)** on the syllabus and you will find a signup sheet on the course website as well as brief guidelines on what you should include in the presentation or discussion.

4.3 Homework assignments

Homework assignments will combine theory and data analysis. You will need to use Stata or some similar statistical package. The computers in the department's computer lab have Stata, and if you do not have an account for those computers please let me know and I will help you get one. If you have more questions after looking at that please feel free to contact me. One advantage of using Stata is that I should be able to respond to your programming-related questions; this may not be true with other packages.

4.4 Research proposal

An essential requirement of this class is to develop, present and submit a short research proposal. The research proposal should be 8-10, double-spaced pages. It should contain a brief (1-2 pages) review of the relevant literature in development economics that demonstrates how your planned research project makes a contribution. You do not need to carry out the project, but you should present a clear research question, describe why the question is interesting, propose a framework for understanding the question, and, if your project is empirical in nature, describe how you would estimate the effect of interest, including a description of what kind of data you might need. You will present your proposal to the class during a 10-15 minute presentation at the end of the semester. All students must meet with me outside of class to discuss their topic. A rough outline of the research question and contribution will be due approximately halfway through the semester on March 19. The proposal should include a discussion of the previous literature as it relates to what you plan to do and should discuss roughly 10 cited works. The cited works should come from the following sources, or journals of similar quality: *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, any journals in the *American Economic Journal* family, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Environment and Development Economics*, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *the Economic Journal*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *World Bank Economic Review* and *Environment and Resource Economics*.

You have the opportunity to submit a draft proposal before April 12 to obtain comments from me and an option to revise your draft before the final deadline of May 1. I will then circulate the proposals before your presentations and randomly assign you to give peer feedback on the proposal as part of a take-home final exam.

4.5 How 3 credits are earned

The class is organized based on an expected time investment of 45 hours of work per credit hour. One credit is the learning that takes place in at least 45 hours of learning activities, which include time in lectures or class meetings, in person or online, exams, presentations, tutorials, reading,

writing, studying, preparation for any of these activities, and any other learning activities.

4.6 Grading

Assignment due dates and point distributions are given below. If you choose not to turn in an assignment on time, you will lose 20% of the total points that you earn on the assignment for each day that it is late.

Assignment	Points	Due date
Homework 1	10	Feb 15
Homework 2	10	March 1
Homework 3	10	March 31
Homework 4	10	Apr 19
In-class presentations	20	Varies
Research proposal and presentation	25	March 19 (Outline) & May 1 (Final proposal) May 3 or May 5
Final exam	15	May 13

Grades will be awarded according to the following scale:

$\geq 93\%$: A
$< 93 \text{ \& } \geq 88 \%$: AB
$< 88 \text{ \& } \geq 83 \%$: B
$< 83 \text{ \& } \geq 78\%$: BC
$< 78 \text{ \& } \geq 70$: C
$< 70 \text{ \& } \geq 60$: D
< 59	: F

5 Class readings schedule

This schedule is subject to change at any point within the semester.

1. Introduction

HW 1 due Feb 15

(a) Stylized facts

- **[Jan 25]** Banerjee, Abhijit, and Esther Duflo. “Economic Lives of the Poor” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21(1): 141-167 (2006)
- **[Jan 25]** Sala i Martin, Xavier. “The World Distribution of Income: Falling Poverty and Convergence, Period” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 121, no 2: 351-397 (2006)
- **[Jan 25]** Durlauf, Steven, Paul A. Johnson and Jonathan R.W. Temple “Growth Econometrics” Ch. 8 *Handbook on Economic Growth* Vol. 1 (2005)

(b) Measurement of Poverty and Inequality

- **[Jan 27]** (up through page 66) Ravallion, Martin “Poverty Comparisons: A Guide to Concepts and Methods” *LSMS Working Paper No. 88* The World Bank (1992)
- **[Jan 27]** Sen “From Income Inequality to Economic Inequality” *Southern Economic Journal* 64 (2): 384-401 (1997)
- **[Jan 27]** Atkinson “On the Measurement of Inequality” *Journal of Economic Theory* 2: 244-63 (1970)

(c) Measurement of Misallocation and the Agricultural Productivity Gap

- **[Feb 1]** Banerjee, Abhijit V., and Esther Duflo. “Growth theory through the lens of development economics,” *Handbook of Economic Growth* 1 : 473-552 (2005).
- **[Feb 1]** Douglas Gollin, David Lagakos, Michael E. Waugh, “The Agricultural Productivity Gap,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 129, Issue 2 :939–993 (2014)
- **[Feb 1]** Chang-Tai Hsieh, Peter J. Klenow, “Misallocation and Manufacturing TFP in China and India,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 124, Issue 4, November 2009, Pages 1403–1448.

2. Theories of Economic Growth

HW 2 Due March 1

(a) Solow Model

- **[Feb 3]** Romer, Advanced Macroeconomics, Ch. 1
- **[Feb 3]** Mankiw, Gregory, David Romer, and David Weil. “A Contribution to the Empirics of Economic Growth” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107(2): 407-437 (1992)
- **[Feb 3]** Lucas, Robert E. “On the mechanics of economic development,” *Journal of Monetary Economics*, Volume 22, Issue 1: 3-42 (1988)

(b) Development traps: Initial Conditions

- **[Feb 8]** Banerjee, Abhijit and Andrew Newmann , “Occupational Choice and the Process of Development,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(2), pp. 274-298. (1993)

(c) Development traps: Multiple equilibria

- **[Feb 10]** Murphy, Kevin, Andrei Shleifer, and Robert Vishny. “Industrialization and the Big Push”, *Journal of Political Economy*, 97(5), 1003-1026. (1989)

(d) Global interdependence and growth

- **[Feb 15]** Helpman (2004) “Interdependence”
- **[Feb 15]** Lucas, Robert E. “Why Doesn’t Capital Flow from Rich to Poor Countries?” *The American Economic Review*, vol. 80, no. 2, pp. 92–96 (1990)
- **[Feb 15]** Estevadeoral and Taylor “Is the Washington Consensus Dead? Growth, Openness, and the Great Liberalization, 1970s-2000s” *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 95 (5): 1669–1690 (2013)

(e) Comparative development: Proximate vs. Deep Determinants

- **[Feb 17]** Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation” *American Economic Review* 91(5): 1369-1401 (2001)
- **[Feb 17]** Glaeser EL, La Porta R, Lopez-de-Silanes F, Shleifer A. “Do institutions cause growth?” *Journal of Economic Growth* 9:271-303 (2004)

- **[Feb 17]** Spolaore, Enrico, and Romain Wacziarg. “How Deep Are the Roots of Economic Development?” *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 51, no. 2: 325–69 (2013)

3. Human capital

(a) Health

- **[Feb 22]** Acemoglu, Daron and Simon Johnson “Disease and Development: The Effect of Life Expectancy on Economic Growth” *Journal of Political Economy* 115(6): 925-985 (2007)
- **[Feb 22]** Dupas, Pascaline “Health behavior in developing countries” *Annual Review of Economics* 3: 425-449 (2011)
- **[Feb 22]** Bleakley, Hoyt.. “Health, Human Capital, and Development,” *Annual Reviews of Economics*, 2: 283-310. (2010)

(b) Policy evaluation

- **[Feb 24]** Cohen, Jessica, and Pascaline Dupas. . “Free Distribution or Cost Sharing? Evidence from a Randomized Malaria Prevention Experiment”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125(1): 1-45 (2010)
- **[Feb 24]** Miguel, Edward and Michael Kremer “Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities”, *Econometrica*, 72 (1), 159-217 (2004)

(c) **Discussion on intrahousehold bargaining and health outcomes:**

- **[Mar 1]** Ashraf, Nava, Erica Field, and Jean Lee. “Household Bargaining and Excess Fertility: An Experimental Study in Zambia.” *American Economic Review*, 104 (7): 2210-37. (2014) **(A)**
- **[Mar 1]** Duflo, E. “Grandmothers and granddaughters: Old age pension and intrahousehold allocation in South Africa”. *World Bank Economic Review* 17 (1), 1-26. (2003). **(B)**

(d) Education

- **[Mar 3]** Krueger, Alan and Mikael Lindahl “Education for Growth: Why and For Whom?” *Journal of Economic Literature* 39(4): 1101-1136 (2001)

- [Mar 3] Duflo, Esther “Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment” *American Economic Review* 91(4): 795-813 (2001)
 - [Mar 3] Kremer and Holla “Improving Education in the Developing World: What Have We Learned from Randomized Evaluations?” *Annual Review of Economics* (2009)
- (e) **Discussion on supply vs. demand in education:**
- [Mar 8] Lucas, Adrienne M., and Isaac M. Mbiti. “Effects of School Quality on Student Achievement: Discontinuity Evidence from Kenya.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 6 (3): 234-63. (2014) **(A)**
 - [Mar 8] Baird, McIntosh, and Ozler “Cash or Condition: Evidence from a cash transfer experiment” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126 (4) (2011) **(B)**

4. Agriculture production

HW 3 Due Mar 31

- (a) Agricultural household models
- [Mar 10] Bardhan and Udry, chapter 2
 - [Mar 10] de Janvry, Fafchamps, Sadoulet “Peasant Household Behavior with Missing Markets: some paradoxes explained” *Economic Journal* 101 (409) (1991)
 - [Mar 10] G. Feder, “The Relation Between Farm Size and Farm Productivity: The Role of Family Labor, Supervision and Credit Constraints,” *Journal of Development Economics* 18 : 297-313 (1985)
- (b) Technology adoption
- [Mar 22] Bardhan and Udry, chapter 12
 - [Mar 22] Foster, Andrew and Mark Rosenzweig “Learning by Doing and Learning from Others: Human Capital and Technical Change in Agriculture” *Journal of Political Economy* 103(6): 1176-1209 (1995)
- (c) **Discussion on fertilizer adoption**
- [Mar 24] Duflo, Esther, Michael Kremer, and Jonathan Robinson. “Nudging Farmers to Use Fertilizer: Theory and

Experimental Evidence from Kenya.” *American Economic Review*, 101 (6): 2350-90 (2011) **(A)**

- **[Mar 24]** Conley, Timothy G., and Christopher R. Udry. “Learning about a New Technology: Pineapple in Ghana.” *American Economic Review*, 100(1): 35-69 (2010)

5. Labor

(a) Labor Markets and Migration

- **[Mar 29]** Bardhan and Udry, chapter 5
- **[Mar 29]** Jere Behrman. “Labor Markets in Developing Countries.” In: *Handbook of Labor Economics* Volume 3. Ed. by Orley Ashenfelter and David Card. 2859–2939 (1999)
- **[Mar 29]** Munshi, Kaivan “Networks in the Modern Economy: Mexican Migrants in the U.S. Labor Market.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118(2): 549-599 (2003)

(b) Discussion on the returns to migration

- **[Mar 31]** Hicks, Joan Hamory, Marieke Kleemans, Nicholas Y. Li, and Edward Miguel.. “Reevaluating Agricultural Productivity Gaps with Longitudinal Microdata”, *Journal of the European Economic Association* (2020)
- **[Mar 31]** Beegle, Kathleen, Joachim De Weerd, and Stefan Dercon. “Migration and economic mobility in Tanzania: Evidence from a tracking survey.” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 93.3 : 1010-1033 (2011)

6. Land

HW 4, Due April 19

(a) Land reform and tenancy

- **[Apr 5]** Bardhan and Udry, ch. 6
- **[Apr 5]** Besley T. and Burgess R. “Land reform, poverty reduction, and growth: Evidence from India.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*.(2000)
- **[Apr 5]** Banerjee, Abhijit, Paul Gertler and Maitresh Ghatak. “Empowerment and Efficiency: Tenancy Reform in West Bengal,” *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 110 (2), pp 239-280. (2002)

(b) Discussion on property rights and investment incentives

- [Apr 7] Goldstein, Markus & Hounghbedji, Kenneth & Kondylis, Florence & O’Sullivan, Michael & Selod, Harris,. “Formalization without certification? Experimental evidence on property rights and investment,” *Journal of Development Economics*, vol. 132(C), pages 57-74 (2018) (B)
- [Apr 7] Besley, T. , “Property Rights and Investment Incentives: Theory and Evidence from Ghana,” *Journal of Political Economy* 103(5), 903-937 (1995)

7. Rural financial markets

(a) Credit

- [Apr 12] Burgess, Robin, and Rohini Pande. 2005. “Do Rural Banks Matter?: Evidence from the Indian Social Banking Experiment.” *American Economic Review* 95(3):780-795.
- [Apr 12] Aleem, Irfan “Imperfect Information, Screening and the Costs of Informal Lending: A Study of a Rural Credit Market in Pakistan” *World Bank Economic Review* 3: 329-349 (1990)

(b) Risk and Insurance

- [Apr 14] Conning and Udry “Rural Financial Markets in Developing Countries” *Handbook of Agricultural Economics* (2007)
- [Apr 14] Townsend, Robert M. “Risk and Insurance in Village India” *Econometrica* (1994) 62(3):539-591.
- [Apr 14] Jensen, Robert “Agricultural Volatility and Investments in Children” *American Economic Review* (2000)

(c) Discussion on alleviating financial constraints

- [Apr 19] Abhijit V. Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Do Firms Want to Borrow More? Testing Credit Constraints Using a Directed Lending Program, *The Review of Economic Studies*, Volume 81, Issue 2, April 2014, Pages 572–607 (A)
- [Apr 19] Karlan, Osei, Osei-Akoto, and Udry. “Agricultural Decisions after Relaxing Credit and Risk Constraints,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 129, No. 2, pages 697-652 (2014) (B)

8. Political Economy

(a) Distribution of Power

- **[Apr 21]** Goldstein, Markus and Christopher Udry, “The Profits of Power: Land Rights and Agricultural Investment in Ghana,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 116 (2008), 981-1022. **(A)**
- **[Apr 21]**

(b) Transitions

- **[Apr 26]** Bourguignon, François and Verdier, Thierry, (2000), Oligarchy, democracy, inequality and growth, *Journal of Development Economics*, 62, issue 2, p. 285-313, ,
- **[Apr 26]** Acemoglu and Robinson.

Discussion on Corruption:

- **[Apr 28]** Cole, Shawn (2009), “Fixing market failures or fixing elections? Agricultural credit in India,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 1, no. 1: 219-250. **(A)**
- **[Apr 28]** Olken, Benjamin (2007). “Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 115 (2): 200-249. **(B)**

Draft proposal due April 26

9. **[May 3, 5]** Proposal presentations

Final Exam due May 9

6 Other information

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense. All sources and assistance used in preparing your papers must be precisely and explicitly acknowledged. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct is not a defense. It is your responsibility to be sure. The web creates special risks. Cutting and pasting even a few words from a web page or paraphrasing material without a reference constitutes plagiarism. If you are not sure how to refer to something you find on the internet, you can always give the URL. It is generally better to quote than to paraphrase from material on the web, because in the absence of page numbers it can be hard to find passages that are paraphrased rather than quoted. For more information on writing and source citation, the following may be helpful <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

Academic Integrity: By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct comprises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please read the following information <http://students.wisc.edu/doso/acadintegrity.html> or come talk with one of the instructors.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. <http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php>