

Syllabus

Development Economics I: Macro Issues in Economic Development

(Entwicklungsökonomik I: Makrofragen wirtschaftlicher Entwicklung)

Winter semester 2025/26

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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 28
2.	Measuring development I	Wednesday, October 29
3.	Measuring development II	Tuesday, November 4
4.	History of underdevelopment I	Wednesday, November 5
5.	History of underdevelopment II	Tuesday, November 11
6.	Growth theory	Wednesday, November 12
7.	Growth empirics	Tuesday, November 18
8.	Political institutions and development	Wednesday, November 19
9.	Globalization and development	Wednesday, November 26
10.	Development aid	Wednesday, December 3
11.	Industrial policy	Wednesday, December 10
12.	Current topics in development	Wednesday, December 17

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 28 until November 18
- Each Wednesday, 10:15-11:45 (s.t.), [Room see EXA](#), from October 29 until December 17

Guest lecture (*Gastvorlesung*):

Digital Development Dialogue (3D) seminar.

Weekly exercise sessions (*Übung*):

- Each Thursday, two alternative time slots, from October 30 to December 18
 - o Option 1: 16:15-17:45 (s.t.), Room see EXA
 - o Option 2: 18:00-19:30 (s.t.), Room see EXA
- Each Tuesday, two alternative time slots, from November 25 to December 16
 - o Option 1: 16:15-17:45 (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 30	Turbanisch
2	PS1	Thursday, November 6	Turbanisch
3	PS2	Thursday, November 13	Turbanisch
4	PS3	Thursday, November 20	Turbanisch
5	PS4	Tuesday, November 25	Turbanisch
6	PS5	Thursday, November 27	Turbanisch
7	PS6	Tuesday, December 2	Turbanisch
8	PS7	Thursday, December 4	Turbanisch
9	PS8	Tuesday, December 9	Turbanisch
10	PS9	Thursday, December 11	Turbanisch
11	PS10	Tuesday, December 16	Turbanisch
12	PS11	Thursday, December 18	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 14, 2026, 10:00-12:00, Room see EXA
- Second exam date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 10:00-12:00, 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!