

# **L12317 Development Economics**

**Credits:** 10

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## **Module description & content**

A general introduction to the economic problems of developing countries. The module will cover such topics as: The implications of history and expectation; Poverty, income distribution and growth; Fertility and population; Employment, migration and urbanization; markets in agriculture; agricultural household models; risk and insurance; and famines.

As noted above, this module covers both microeconomic and macroeconomic issues in development. The specific topics to be discussed are set out below.

### **Microeconomic Issues**

- Introduction to economic development
- History and expectation
- Poverty, income distribution and growth
- Fertility and population
- Employment, migration and urbanization

### **Macroeconomic Issues**

- Markets in agriculture
- Agricultural household models
- Risk and insurance
- Famines

## **Aims and objectives**

### **Aims:**

- To introduce some of the main economic issues facing developing countries.
- To provide students with appropriate theoretical tools to analyse and understand these issues.
- To provide students with guidance as to sources of empirical analysis and evidence, which they can follow up via the reading list and in work for tutorials.
- To introduce key policy issues relating to the topics discussed.
- More generally, to illustrate the application of relevant economic theory and analysis to real economic issues.

## Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module students should be able to demonstrate:

- A good level of understanding of key economic issues in developing countries;
- Familiarity (where relevant) with empirical evidence relating to the issues they have studied;
- An ability (where relevant) to discuss policy issues related to the material they have studied;
- Greater familiarity with and understanding of the use of economic analysis in addressing important issues in developing countries.

Learning outcomes are such that students will be able to:

- Knowledge and Understanding:
  - A3 Show understanding of analytical methods, both theory- and model-based.
  - A6 Discuss and analyse government policy.
- Intellectual Skills:
  - B3 Reason logically and work analytically.
- Professional/Practical Skill:
  - C2 Select and apply appropriate techniques to solve problems.
  - C3 Justify conclusions using economic arguments with appropriate rigour.
- Transferable/Key Skills:
  - D1 Apply mathematical, statistical and graphical techniques in an appropriate manner.
  - D2 Communicate effectively and clearly in written and oral formats.

## Module downloads

Lecture slides and other material for this module will be made available to the students throughout the course.

## Lectures and tutorials

This module is taught by means of lectures (18 hours) and tutorials (at least 3 hours), complemented by students' own private study.

- **Lectures**  
2 hours per week.
- **Tutorials**  
There will be at least 3 tutorials for this course throughout the term, for which students are expected to prepare answers to questions in preparation for the final exam.
- **Independent study**  
The material covered in the lectures should only be viewed as a starting point in understanding the issues covered, and as providing a guide for subsequent reading.

Independent reading will be essential to supplement lectures, and this must go beyond reading only one textbook.

## **Module Assessment**

Method of Assessment: 2-hour written examination (100%). Details of the number of questions for each section (micro or macro) will be provided to the students at the beginning of the course.

Previous Examination Papers and Feedback for all modules will be provided to the students. A password may be required to access this material.

## **Module Texts**

The main textbook for this module is

- Ray, D. (1999), *Development Economics*, Princeton.

Students may consult the following book for additional reading:

- Thirlwall, A. P. (1999), *Growth and Development*, 6th Edition, Macmillan (the 7th edition (2003) is updated but follows the same chapter structure).

Ray provides an in depth treatment of most issues. There are many textbooks on Development Economics, and you can improve your understanding by reading the relevant chapters of books not listed here.

## **Further information**

If you have any questions regarding this module please feel free to contact the lecturer. At the end of this semester, we would welcome your views on the organisation and content of this module.