ECON 412
Economic History and Modern Development
Winter 2011 Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives: This is a class about modern development, which includes modern economic, political, and social development. The course combines elements of economic history and economic theory, with a large splash of political science and a bit of sociology thrown in. The task is to figure out what modern development consists of and then attempt to explain why it has occurred in about 25 societies around the world over the last 200 years. We will also spend some time looking at Africa in the late 20th century, which is a place that, by and large, has not grown.

The course includes lectures and in-class exams.

Instructors’ Contact Information and Class Logistics:
Office: Tydings Hall 3143
Email: laparraperez@econ.umd.edu
Phone: 301 405 4534
Office Hours: Mon., Tue. and Wed. 10:30 am -11:30 am; and by appointment

Class Lectures: Mon., Tu., Wed. and Thurs., 3:30 – 6:40 pm in Tydings 1114.

Pre-requisites: ECON325 and ECON326 with a grade of 'C' (2.0) or better (or ECON306 and ECON305 by permission).

Expectations of Students: If you attend lectures regularly, you will be better able to understand the readings and prepare for exams. You are expected to read the assigned chapters of the books listed below before we discuss them in class. Reading is indeed a crucial part of this course. A list of the books that we will use as well as a tentative idea of the relevant chapters that will be discussed in each class is provided below. If you find that you can’t follow the logic of lectures and readings, please visit my office hours before exams. Contacting me about such problems at the end of the term when your grade is lower than you would like is entirely too late.

Academic Integrity
The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards applicable to all undergraduate students, and you are responsible for upholding these standards as you complete assignments and take exams in this course. Please make yourself aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information see www.studenthonor council.umd.edu

Course Website: If you are registered for this course, you should use your directory ID and password to access www.elms.umd.edu. Copies of this syllabus, your grades, and other relevant documents will be made available through the course website.

Email: The University has adopted email as the primary means of communication outside the classroom, and I will use it to inform you of important announcements. Students are responsible for updating their current email address via the appropriate link on http://www.testudo.umd.edu/Registrar.html. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding email, and returned email due to “mailbox full” or “user unknown” will not excuse a student from missing announcements or deadlines.
You are encouraged to contact me by email, and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. PLEASE include ECON412 in the subject line, so that I can quickly distinguish your message from spam or other less important matters. PLEASE also include your name and any previous messages we’ve exchanged within every message you send to me.

Textbooks:

North, Wallis and Weingast’s book is the main reference for the course. We will also deal at length with Bates’s books. Landes’ book is a great reference if you want to go deeper into some of the topics that we will study in class. All the books are available for less than $25.

Grades and Assignments: Your grade will be determined by your performance on exams. The weight of each exam in the final grade will be as follows:
- Midterm: 40%
- Final: 60%

The format of exam questions is essay questions and “closed book” – use of notes and interaction with classmates are both prohibited. The midterm is scheduled for January 11th in class, and the final exam will take place in class on January 20th. The final exam will be cumulative. Students are required to take both exams. Make-up exams will be granted only to those students whose excuse complies with University policy. The four valid excuses according to University policy are medical conditions, religious observances, participation in University events at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond your control. If you believe you need a make-up, please inform me as far in advance as possible by email. University policy requires that you provide appropriate documentation before you can be considered eligible for a make-up exam. If you miss an exam and cannot document a valid excuse, your grade will be recorded as a zero.

Students who are registered with the University’s Disability Support Services (DSS) office and who provide me with an updated DSS form by specific date you choose will be accommodated. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with the documentation in advance of exams.

Department of Economics’ policy on grading requires instructors to use the grading system announced at the beginning of the semester in all cases and with no exceptions. There will be no opportunities for extra credit after the semester ends.
**Schedule of Classes:**
The following schedule is tentative and may suffer some changes depending on our progress in class.

Jan 3. Introduction.
Readings: North, Wallis and Weingast (NWW): Chapter 1.

No reading required.

Jan 5. Growth and violence.

Jan 6. The logic of Limited Access Orders (LAOs).
Readings: NWW: Chapter 2.

Readings: NWW: Chapter 3.
*Markets and states in Tropical Africa.*

Jan 11 – **Midterm exam. 3:30-5:00pm**

Jan 12. The logic of Open Access Orders (OAOs).
Readings: NWW: Chapter 4.

Jan 13. The transition from LAOs to OAOs (1/2).
Readings: NWW: Chapter 5

Jan 17 Martin Luther King holiday: **NO CLASS**

Jan 18. The transition from LAOs to OAOs (2/2).


Jan 20 – **Final exam. 3:30-5:45pm.**