

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN  
Graduate School of International Relations

Academic Year: 2013/2014

Term: Spring

|                                  |                                    |                                       |                              |
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| Course                           | Course code<br>DCC 5270            | Course title<br>Development Economics |                              |
| Name of Instructor               | Yusuke Jinnai                      |                                       | Credit Number: 2             |
| Instructor's contact Information | Office#<br>114                     | Office Hours<br>TBA                   | E-mail:<br>yjinnai@iuj.ac.jp |
| Class Schedule<br>Day / Time     | Tuesday / 14:40-16:10, 16:20-17:50 |                                       |                              |

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the field of development economics. The course covers a number of journal articles with a wide variety of topics ranging from poverty and education to property right and microfinance. The course also reviews a series of econometric models that are widely used in this field.

**Learning Objectives:** The course is designed for students to (1) become familiar with the frontier of this research area, (2) find an interesting research question to tackle in their own theses, and (3) equip themselves with econometric tools to answer their questions. Through STATA exercises, students also learn how to use econometric models in empirical studies.

**Career Relevance:** This course should serve students in their future role as a policy-maker, business analyst, or academic researcher in the field of economic and social development, including education, health, poverty, and other related public policies.

**Course Context or Rationalization:** This course covers empirical studies that apply microeconomic concepts and econometric tools, which students learn through the core courses.

**Delivery Methods:** This course consists of lectures and class discussion.

**Assessment:**

1. Participation in class discussion (10%)
2. Short quizzes (20%)
3. STATA exercises (20%)
4. Term paper (50%)

Through STATA sessions and exercises, students will learn empirical applications of popular econometric models. Students will write a term paper (max 10 pages) by the end of the course, clearly stating (i) research question, (ii) literature review, (iii) econometric model, (iv) data set, and (v) (preliminary) results. The idea of these assignments is to help students become well prepared for starting their own research.

Prerequisite: Mathematical methods, Statistical methods, and Econometrics/Data Analysis.

Textbook(s)

Required: There will be no required textbook in this course.

Reference books/Journal Articles:

(1) On Development

The following books are recommended especially for those who consider writing a thesis on a topic in development economics. Ray (1998) is a standard textbook in this field, while Abhijit and Duflo (2011), Karlan and Appel (2011), Collins, Morduch, Rutherford, and Ruthven (2009), and Jerven (2013) provide general readers with new findings and insight from their recent studies.

- Ray (1998), *Development Economics*, Princeton University Press.
- Abhijit and Duflo (2011), *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, PublicAffairs.
- Karlan and Appel (2011), *More Than Good Intentions*, Penguin Group.
- Collins, Morduch, Rutherford, and Ruthven (2009), *Portfolios of the Poor*, Princeton University Press.
- Jerven (2013), *Poor Numbers*, Cornell University Press.

(2) On Econometrics

If students plan to conduct an empirical research (not limited to development economics) for their theses, they may also find the following books very useful. While Wooldridge (2013) is a standard textbook on econometrics, Angrist and Pischke (2008) discuss the advantages and pitfalls of widely-used econometric models.

- Wooldridge (2013), *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach (5<sup>th</sup> edition)*, Cengage Learning.
- Angrist and Pischke (2008), *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*, Princeton University Press.

(3) On Academic Writing

Regarding writing research papers, the following books are of your help. Their advice includes, but not limited to, why you need academic writing skills, how to distinguish your research from previous studies, the goals of each section (Data, Method, Results, etc.), and the ways to achieve those goals in writing.

- Graff and Birkenstein (2014), *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)*, Norton.
- Wallwork (2011), *English for Writing Research Papers*, Springer.

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|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swales and Freak (2012), <i>Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills</i>, University of Michigan Press.</li> </ul>   |
| Class Outline   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overview of causal inference</li> <li>2. Economic growth and economic inequality</li> <li>3. Health and wealth</li> <li>4. Education and income</li> <li>5. Decision making within families</li> <li>6. Labor markets and migration</li> <li>7. Gender, female labor supply, and marriage markets</li> <li>8. Land and property rights</li> <li>9. Credit markets, financial institutions, and micro finance</li> <li>10. Corruption and political economy</li> </ol> |
| Others (if any) | Reading list will be provided in class.   |