Economics 270B: Graduate Development Economics
Professor Edward Miguel (emiguel@econ.berkeley.edu, 510-642-7162)
SPRING 2013 SYLLABUS

Description: This course covers leading research issues in Development Economics, with a particular focus on macroeconomic growth empirics, political economy, and human capital topics. It is taught at a level appropriate for Ph.D. students in Economics and related fields.

Prerequisites: Graduate coursework in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics.

Lectures: Monday 2-4pm, Evans 639

Office hours: Prof. Miguel’s office hours are Monday 9:30-11:30am in Evans 647. Please email Jeanette Aguilar (jaguilar@berkeley.edu) for an appointment.

Extra office hours and sections: Jamie McCasland (jamiem@econ.berkeley.edu)

Assignments and Grading:
(Note: assignments should be emailed to me and Jamie by 2pm on the due date.)
(1) Referee reports on papers by job market candidates (40 percent):


-- Referee report 3 on Ruixue Jia (Stockholm University) “Pollution for Promotion” [http://people.su.se/~rjia/papers/pollution_V7.4.pdf], due Monday 3/11


Each referee report should be 2-3 pages double-spaced. The report should start off with a one paragraph summary of the main argument of the article. You should describe your main 3-4 points in detail as if you were writing directly to the author. Conclude the report with more minor comments. A good referee report not only clearly states the shortcomings of the work, but also lays out constructive, detailed and realistic suggestions for improvement.

(2) Two problem sets (20 percent):
-- Problem set 1, due Monday 4/8
-- Problem set 2, due Monday 4/22

(3) One research proposal, 8-9 pages (30 percent):
The research proposal should briefly (3-4 pages) survey an existing literature in Development Economics, and then describe a planned research project (5-6 pages). Proposals should be in 12 point font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins. Proposals exceeding 9 pages in length will lose credit. It is due Friday 5/3.

(4) Class participation (10 percent): In borderline cases, the quality of classroom comments may be a factor in assigning grades.

There is no final exam.

Special Accommodations: If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately by email or in office hours.

COURSE SYLLABUS
I. Macroeconomic growth empirics
Lecture 1: Global patterns of economic growth and development (1/28)


Lecture 2: History and institutions (2/4)


II. Political economy
Lecture 3: Democracy and development (2/11)
[Referee report #1 due]


Lecture 4: Political Connections and Rents (2/25)  
[Referee report #2 due]  


Lecture 5: The Political Economy of Violence (3/4)  


Lecture 6: Conflict, Climate and Income (3/11)  
[Referee report #3 due]  


Background reading for lectures 5-6:

**Lecture 7: Political Agency and Accountability (3/18) – Guest lecture Gustavo Bobonis**
[Referee report #4 due]

[http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~bobonis/BCS_PRAudit_11-05.pdf]


[3/25 – Spring break]

**Lecture 8: Politician Motivations and Selection (4/1) – Guest lecture Ernesto Dal Bo**


**III. Human resources**

**Lecture 9: Human capital and income growth (4/8)**
[Problem Set #1 due]


**Lecture 10: Health, nutrition and income (4/15)**

[http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~emiguel/workingpapers.shtml]


**Lecture 11: The demand for health (4/22)**

[Problem set #2 due]


**Lecture 12: Mobile technology impacts (4/29)**

[Research proposal due]


**IV. Additional topics covered on the Development Economics field exam:**

--- Inequality and growth


-- Corruption


-- Incentives to increase human capital
