

**Syllabus for 172: Case studies in Development Economics. Fall 2015.**  
**Instructor : Gérard Roland**

The course this year will not be focusing on a specific continent or on specific regions but will be focusing on specific issues. The theme this year will be on the role of institutions in affecting development outcomes. There is indeed a blooming literature arguing that differences in institutions are key to explain differences in development. The course will familiarize students with the economics of institutions and its relevance for development. All continents will be covered.

The course will be based on my recent *Development Economics* textbook (2013) published with Pearson Higher Education

<http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Development-Economics/9780321464484.page>

The book covers all the main issues in development economics and puts a particular emphasis on the role of institutions in development, both at the micro and at the macro level.

Slides used during the lecture will be made available to students, either before or after the lectures.

**Learning goals:**

As part of Berkeley's Undergraduate Student Learning Initiative (USLI), the Economics Department has developed learning goals for the Economics major. See <http://econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/home/learning-goals>. The specific learning goals which this course aims to achieve are:

- learn about many substantive issues that are very relevant in today's world. We will be applying many fundamental concepts from economics to issues of economic development using the lens of institutions to understand these issues.
- The course will familiarize you with available data bases on development and with how to read and interpret statistical tables with econometric regressions.

**Schedule**

Lecture 1 (Aug 27) **Introduction.**  
(based on Chapter 1 in the book)

Lectures 2 and 3 (Sept. 1 and 3) : **What are Institutions and Why do they Matter for Development?** (based on Chapter 7)

Lectures 4 and 5 (Sept. 8 and 10): **Political Institutions** (based on Chapter 9)

Lecture 6 and 7: (online lectures replacing October 20 and November 24 lectures)

Lectures 8 and 9 (September 15 and 17): **Culture** (based on Chapter 11)

Lectures 10 and 11 (September 29 and October 1): **Rural Land rights and Contracts** (based on Chapter 12)

Lectures 12 and 13 (Oct. 6 and 8): **Property Rights and Efficiency in Urban Areas** (based on Chapter 13)

Lectures 14 and 15 (Oct. 13 and 15): **Market Development** (based on Chapter 14)

**Midterm exam: October 22.** (October 20: online lecture **Legal Institutions** (based on Chapter 10).)

Lectures 16 and 17 (Oct. 27 and 29): **Credit Markets in Development** (based on Chapter 15)

Lectures 18 and 19 (Nov. 3 and): **Institutions and Growth** (based on Chapter 4)

Lectures 20 and 21 (Nov. 10 and 12): **Corruption** (based on Chapter 19)

Lectures 22 and 23 (November 17 and 19): **Conflict** (based on Chapter 20)

November 24: online lecture **Fiscal Institutions** (based on Chapter 10).

Lecture 25 (December 1): **Infrastructure** (based on Chapter 18)

Lecture 26 ( December 3): **Topics in Healthcare and Education** (based on Chapters 16 and 17)

**Grade:** 30% based on sections, 30% mid-term exam, 40% final exam.

**Honor Code:**

*"As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others."*