Course Title: ECON 118, Economic Development in Asia
Term 1, 2009-10

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Office Hours: TBD

Course Objective and Description:
This course will give you practical perspectives on economic development in Asia and elsewhere in the world. You will learn the leading experiences, issues and theories in international development with the regional focus on Asia. The issues covered in the course include the Asian miracle and the Asian financial crisis. I will use simple economic models to explain a variety of issues in international development. Students are expected to take active participation in the class; I encourage students to interact with me and other students to deepen their understanding of the issues, to cultivate their own views and to foster the critical thinking.

Recommended Textbooks:

Structure of the Lectures:
The class will meet once a week. In each session, there will be a lecture (approx 140 mins). The remaining time of the session will be used for two student presentations of case studies on a topic covered in the previous lecture (approx 40 mins). Students are expected to read the required reading materials in advance.

I will not follow the textbooks closely, though they will help you deepen the understanding of the topics covered in the lecture. I will also give you a reading list for each lecture, which will help you understand the course materials. A tentative reading list is given at the end of the syllabus.

Sitting in an Alternate Section:
I will have four sections of ECON 118. You are expected to attend your designated section. You must obtain a prior approval from me in order to sit in an alternate section.

Discussion Board:
All the course-related questions must be posted to the discussion board on SMUVista. The discussion board helps me and you; I don’t have to answer the same question twice, and you can fine the answer to the questions already asked immediately. Questions emailed to me will not be answered. In case you do not get an answer to the question you posted within 36 hours, you may email me.

Grading:
This course has six grading components as shown below:
- Mid-term Examination (Individual) 30%
- Case Study Presentation (Group) 10%
- Student Project Report (Group) 10%
- Student Project Presentation (Individual) 10%
- Participation (Individual) 10%
- Final exam (Individual) 30%

Midterm Examination:
The midterm examination will be held on October 17, 2009. In the midterm examination, I will ask questions that test your understanding of basic concepts and reading materials. I will also ask
you to calculate some measures that frequently appear in development literature. The examination will be closed-book and last one and half hours. A simple calculator is allowed.

Case Study Presentation:
There will be a total of six case-study presentation sessions in Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11. In each session, there will be two group presentations on a topic covered in the previous lecture. Hence, there will be twelve case-study groups (CSG). Each student will be randomly assigned to one of these twelve groups.

The case study has two purposes: One is to help you refresh the memory and understanding of the previous lecture. The other is to help you improve your presentation skills.

You are required to upload the presentation materials at least two days before the presentation. The file must be either in .ppt or .pdf format. The file name must be “Gx_CSG_yy.pdf/ppt”, where x is the section you belong to (G1-G4) and yy is the name of the CSG. For example, if you are a G1 student in CSG 1-a, the file name must be G1_CSG_1a.pdf/.ppt. At the end of the presentation, you are required to include all the references you used to produce the slides. In the references, one or more academic journal article in Tier 1 category (both Theoretical and Applied/Field are fine) in the following NTU website must be included:


You may also include non-TIER 1 academic articles as well as newspaper, government reports and other periodicals in the references. You can take the references from the reading list. But do cover something that was not covered in the lecture.1 Other than the slides, no separate reports are necessary for case-study presentations. You are encouraged to look through the uploaded files every week.

Case study will be evaluated by me and your peers. At the end of the case-study presentation, the audience will be asked to fill in a form whether the topic was relevant to the previous lecture and the presentation was interesting. Comments will be given back to the presenters as soon as possible, but the grade for the case study will not be given until all the case-study presentations are finished. Everyone in the group shares an equal responsibility and will receive the same grade.

Student Project:
In week 12 or 13, you are making a presentation in a group of no more than five (called SPG). You can work on your own (esp. if you think you will end up doing everything), but I encourage you to work with others. Once you form a group, you email me and the teaching assistant the names of all the group members as well as the areas of interest from the following:

   a) Poverty and Inequality
   b) Education, Health, Labor and Gender
   c) Population
   d) Environment, Natural Resources and Geography
   e) International Trade and Globalization
   f) Agriculture
   g) Financial Sector
   h) Political Economy and Government
   i) Other

The SPG must be formed by September 13, 2009. You will receive a group name (SPG A, SPG B, etc) after then. Each SPG needs to choose a question that is relevant to contemporary development policy. Below are examples of the topics you could choose:

   -Is growth good for the poor?

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1 When you create references, make sure that you include at least the author(s), the title of the article, the source (the name of the journal, book, etc), the year of publication and the pages. You can use the style of the reading list for this course, or some other styles that are conventionally used.
-Can foreign aid eliminate poverty?
-Does growth cause environmental degradation?
-Can “Asian Miracle” be replicated in Africa?

Besides the reading materials covered in this lecture, the recent issues of the *World Development Report* by the World Bank and the *Human Development Report* by the United Nations Development Programme are useful sources for finding important issues in the current arena of international development policy. Other useful reference is:


You may also find it interesting to read the following books for the general audience:

Easterly (2007) *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. Penguin.

In Week 7, there will be a Student Presentation Preparation Session. I will divide the class into four so that I have four 45-minutes sessions. By doing this, I can limit the number of students in each session so that each group has a chance to freely discuss with me and other students. Each of you attends one of these four sessions. By the time of the preparation session, each SPG must have prepared a research question. Each SPG must explain why it is an important/interesting question to ask in a way that those without any prior background can. You may use slides to explain, but this is not a requirement.

The purpose of the presentation preparation session is to help you get started. I will not, therefore, grade your presentation. However, you can make best use of the session after you have done the preparation as much as you can. You provide other SPGs with comments on their research questions. (And you get participation points by providing useful comments) I will try to put SPGs with similar interests in the same session, but you should expect to see completely different topics from yours.

Prior to the presentation in Weeks 12 and 13, each group (not individual) must submit a brief report, which should be no more than four A4 pages including references, tables and figures. You must have a complete list of references which are cited in the text. The reference must include at least two articles in TIER 1 journals must be included. The report must use a font with no smaller than 10.5 pt, and have a margin of no less than 1.5cm from each side. Cover page is unnecessary, but the report must contain the names of the group members, the group name (SPG A, SPG B, etc) and the title of the project. You may use single spacing, double spacing or any other appropriate spacing. Everyone in the group share an equal responsibility (and the same grade) for the report. In addition, each individual must submit the slides for presentation. Both the report and the slides must be submitted by October 30, 2009.

As with the case study, you will need to follow a certain rule when you upload your report and slides. For slides, you use Slides_Gx_SPG_y.pdf/.ppt, where x is the group and y is the SPG group name. For report, you use Report_Gx_SPG_y.pdf. For example, if you are in SPG C in G5, you must submit Slides_G5_SPG_C.ppt and Slides_G5_SPG_C.pdf.

Each group has 5 minutes times the number of people in the group. You (as a group) need to explain what is generally agreed and what is in the center of contention. You also need to provide your own synthesis. Each student in the group must present something. Thus, divide the group presentation nicely so that each of you has a topic to present and at the same time the group presentation is coherent. The presentation will be evaluated on the individual basis.
Final Examination:
The final examination will be a mixture of the multiple choice questions and open-ended questions. The examination will be two hours. The exam covers all the lectures. You can answer the questions by reviewing the slides and readings. The exam is closed book. I will provide you with a sample questions. This is all I can say about the final examination. Please do not ask any more questions!

Participation:
Participation will be based primarily on the quality and quantity of the feedback you provide to other students in the case study presentations, student project preparation session and student project presentation. If I find evidence that you have contributed to the class in other ways than those mentioned above, I will also take that into consideration.

Course Schedule

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Week 1: Introduction—Basic Tools and East Asian Growth Experience

- Weil. Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Further Reading

- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7.
Week 2: Poverty and Income Distribution


Further Reading

- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapters 10.
Week 3: Education, Health, Labor and Gender


Further Reading

- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapter 10.


Week 4: Population


- Weil. Chapters 4 and 5.


Further Reading


- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapter 8.


Week 5: Environment, Natural Resources and Geography


- Weil. Chapter 16.

Further Reading

- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapter 10.


Week 6: International Trade and Globalization

- Weil. Chapter 11.

Further Reading

- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapters 6 and 11
Week 10: Agriculture and Financial Sector


Further Reading


- Dowling and Valenzuela. Chapters 3, 7


Week 11: Political Economy, Geography, and Culture

- Weil. Chapters 12, 14 and 15.

Further Reading

- Dowling and Valenzuela, Chap. 13.