

Economic Development

ECO 468W – Fall 2007 – Tue & Thur 12:30-1:50pm

Instructor: Mark W. Frank, Ph.D.

Office: Smith-Hutson Business Building, Room 237-K

E-Mail: markfrank@shsu.edu

Online: Grades and other material will be placed on Blackboard

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 pm (walk-ins at other times are welcome).

Required Books:

- The Elusive Quest for Economic Growth (2001) by William Easterly
- The End of Poverty (2006) by Jeffery Sachs
- The World is Flat Release 3.0 (Paperback) (2007) by Thomas Friedman

Description: The central organizing question of development economics is: why do some nations generate tremendous wealth and prosperity, while others persist in poverty and destitution? The aim of this course is to present the current state of the developing world, the leading theoretical explanations for this current state, and the key historical events that have contributed to this condition. Special attention will also be given to the issues of education, population growth, income inequality, political and economic freedom, and international trade. Graphs and algebra will be used where necessary to develop the concepts central to economic development. Prerequisite: ECO 230 or 233.

Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to introduce the student to the theoretical explanations and historical factors of economic development and underdevelopment. Emphasis will be placed on the competing policies for accelerating development in less developed countries.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on the highest three of four possible in-class examinations, and several homework assignments. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and one essay question taken from class lectures and assigned readings. The final exam is comprehensive. Each of the student's three highest exams will be worth 25% of the final grade. Homework assignments will comprise the remaining 25%.

Letter grades will be assigned in the following manner:

Above 90%	A	80% to 89%	B	70% to 79%	C
60% to 69%	D	Below 60%	F		

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual class attendance is expected; some of the homework assignments will have in-class components that cannot be made up if a student misses class! A student is allowed to drop one exam grade (only the highest three of the four exams will count towards the final grade). If a student misses *two* exams, however, then the comprehensive final exam will count twice. All late homework assignments are assessed a penalty of 5 points per day.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Disabled Student Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

Tentative Course Outline:

Class Days:	Topic:	Readings:
Aug 21, 23	Measurement and Meaning of Development	Sachs, chapter 1, 3 Easterly, chapter 1, 2
Aug 28, 30, Sept 4, 6, 11	Theories of Development	Easterly, chapters 3, 8, 9, 11, 12
Sept 13, 18	Video: Commanding Heights	
September 20	Exam 1	
Sept 25, 27, Oct 2, 4	History of Development: Part I – Why Europe?	Sachs, chapters 2, 8, 9
Oct 9, 11, 16, 18	History of Development: Part II – Why England?	
October 23	Exam 2	
Oct 25, 30, Nov 1	Institutions of Development	Easterly, chapters 6, 7 Friedman, chapters 1, 5
Nov 6, 8, 13	Income Inequality & Economic Development	
Nov 15, 20, 27	Global Security & Transitional Game Theory	
Nov 29, Dec 4	America and the Future of the Developing World	Friedman, chapters 10, 14
December 6	Exam 3	
Tuesday December 11th, 11am – noon	Comprehensive Final Exam	