Development Economics

Fall 2002

Two sessions / week
1.5 hours / session

Esther Duflo
Abhijit Banerjee
Michael Kremer

This class contributes to the fulfillment of requirements for the development field for Economics Ph.D. students at both Harvard and MIT. People other than Economics Ph.D. students should consult with the instructors before enrolling.

The first two-thirds of the class will be taught jointly by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo and the last one-third will be taught by Michael Kremer.

Requirements: Problem sets will generally be handed out every other Wednesday and will be due one week later. The final exam will count for 70% of the grade, and the problem sets will account for the remaining 30%. The final exam will be held at the regular class meeting place and time. Class participation will also be considered in borderline cases.

Many readings are available on the web. For readings not on the web, there are two separate course books. Course books with readings for the first two-thirds of the course (the MIT section, those listed with double stars) is currently available at the MIT Copy Technology Center. Readings will also be put on reserve at Dewey library and Littauer library. Readings for the last third (the Kremer section) of the class are available on Harvard's e-reserves.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Development Seminar, which meets on Tuesdays for 1.5 hours at Harvard. When there is an out-of-town speaker, we normally take the speaker out to dinner, and we will try to save a couple of spots for graduate students each time.

Everyone is also encouraged to attend the Development Lunch. MIT's Development Lunch meets on Mondays. The Harvard Development Lunch meets on Wednesdays.

General readings

BOOKS:


Articles:


1. Introduction (1 lecture)


2. Nutrition and Health (2 lectures)


3. Education (3 lectures)

** Duflo, Esther (2001), "Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment" *American


4. Land (2 lectures)


5. Credit (4 lectures)


* Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo (2002), " Do Firms Want to Borrow More? Testing Credit Constraints Using a Directed Lending Program ,"


* Karlan, Dean (2002), " Social Capital and Group Banking ," mimeo


* Pitt, Mark and Shahidur Khandker (1998), "The Impact of Group-based Credit

6. Reputation


7. Gender and Family


* Duflo, Esther (2000), " Grandmothers and Granddaughters: Old Age Pension and Intra-household Allocation in South Africa ,"


Part II: General Equilibrium

Kremer, M. Contents of Course Packet for 14.771/Harvard 2390b

8. Technology


9. Population

