

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Fall 2023

UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Time: Tuesday 09:30 - 12:30

Place: 140-2 #201 for Offline or Zoom Online when necessary

Instructor: Hyeok Jeong (Email: hyeokj@snu.ac.kr, Tel: 02-880-2921).

Office Hour: Tuesday 14:00 - 14:50 with appointment only.

Course Number: M2048.000600

Last Update: July 25, 2023.

Course Keywords

International Development, Empirical Analysis of Development, Development Cooperation, Development Policy and Institutions, Global Growth and Inequality

Course Description

This course aims to provide fundamental understanding about why development experiences differ across countries and how to bridge such development gaps among them so that global inequality would be reduced by national growth and development. There are diverse dimensions of development from human to economic development, and the surface-level reasons and the root causes of such differences also vary from economic fundamentals, social structure, historical path dependence, culture, geography, governance to pure lucks.

We would like to first build up our empirical understandings about the current status of international differences of various development indicators. Then, we attempt to understand the key mechanisms behind such international development gaps, using both theory and data as consistently as possible. We also discuss a possible set of policy and institutional reforms that would improve the current status of global development. In particular, we will pay a close attention to international development cooperation as a potential institutional instrument to promote the global development.

Evaluation

Course grade will be based on (i) in-class midterm exam (30%), (ii) homework (20%), (iii) final group presentation (30%), and (iv) class participation (20%).

Class participation grade will be measured by (i) attendance (10%), and (ii) the quality of answers and questions that are considered to contribute to class (10%).

For the final group presentation, students need to form a group to design and propose their own development project for a specific developing country or region. The topic of the presentation needs to be discussed with and approved by the instructor in advance. The proposal should be based on the theories and empirical findings from class to justify the development effectiveness of the project. The proposal also needs to include the implementation and financing schemes to prove the feasibility of the project. Even though the final group presentation is done by group, the grade consists of two parts: (i) group score which is common to all group members (15%) and (ii) individual score which is given to each individual member of the group (15%), so that it is important to specify what part of the presentation is prepared by whom.

Keeping class etiquette is required. For example, no cell phone or personal computer communications including text messaging are allowed. In case of doing online class, the camera must be turned on and students should face the camera. Otherwise, simple log-in violating this rule will be recorded as absence. For any negative disruptions to class, negative participation grade will be given.

According to the revised SNU school rule (the 4th Clause of the Article 85), effective date of September 1st in the year 2018, any students who attend less than two-thirds of the required classes will receive a grade of "F" or "U" with exception of inevitable cases which is upon discretion of the instructor.

Instruction for Online Class If Needed

We may do the lectures, presentations and discussions via Zoom when it is necessary. The URL of the login site of Zoom is <https://zoom.us>. You can create the login ID for Zoom by using your SNU email ID or by obtaining license from the IT

Center (phone: 02-880-8282, email: zoom_tf@snu.ac.kr). The Zoom meeting ID and password for this class will be informed to the registered students by emails from TA. Class materials (reading assignments, presentation files and schedules) and the announcement of the class logistics will be posted on SNU eTL.

Course Outline

Part I. Diagnosis of Development Differences

1. Global Distribution of Diverse Development Indicators
2. Different Stages of Development and Structural Transformation

Part II. Empirical Methods Analyzing Development Differences

3. Development Accounting
4. Growth Accounting
5. Growth Regression

Part III. Theoretical Perspectives Analyzing Development Differences

6. Sources of Growth
7. Barriers to Development

Part IV. Development Policies and Institutions: Selected Topics

8. Human Capital
9. Finance
10. City
11. Innovation
12. Environment and Natural Resources

*Midterm Exam is scheduled on **October 24th, 2023.***

Part V. Development Cooperation

13. Concepts and Motives of ODA and Development Cooperation
14. Determinants and Effectiveness of ODA
15. Toward Effective Implementation of Development Cooperation

Part VI. Group Presentation of Development Project Proposals

Remark 1. When the time constraints prevail or unexpected contingencies happen, we can rearrange the above topics and course schedule.

Remark 2. This syllabus is written on July 25, 2023. It may be necessary to make adjustment during the semester upon contingencies.