

Economics 1560: Economic Growth

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Office Hours: Tuesday, TBA, Robinson Basement

Class meetings: T, TH, 1:00-2:20, Wilson 102

Section meetings: Tuesday, 3:00-3:50, Wilson 205
 Wednesday, 12:00-12:50, Wilson 105

Note: sections only meet on some weeks. See schedule below.

Course Web Site:

http://www.econ.brown.edu/faculty/David_Weil/Econ%201560/Economics%201560.html

Course Description

A theoretical and empirical examination of economic growth and income differences between countries. The course focuses on both the historical experience of countries that are currently rich and the process of catch-up among poor countries. Topics include population growth, accumulation of physical and human capital, technological change, natural resources, income distribution, geography, government, and culture. Prerequisites: EC 1110 or permission of instructor.

Requirements and Grading

The course grade will be based on two midterm exams (20% each), a short paper (20%), homework (10%), and a final exam (30%). The dates of the exams and due dates for homework assignments and the final paper are listed below. Students may work on homework as a group, but they *must* hand in their assignments individually. Further, students who work as a group must list on their assignments all the other members of the group with whom they worked, and there may be a maximum of four members of such a group.

Absences from exams will be automatically excused only in cases of medical or family emergency, which must be verified by a letter from the Dean. Any other requests to be excused from an exam must be presented in writing within the first two weeks of the semester. Late homework will not be accepted. Late papers will be accepted with a reduction of ten points (out of 100) per day late or fraction thereof. Because the due date and topic for the paper will be announced far in advance, no extensions will be granted to students who have work for other courses or other scheduled events that conflict with the deadline for the paper.

Please also note that the final exam is on the second to last day of finals period (December 20), in the afternoon. I realize that this may cause difficulties for students who would like to avoid higher airfares during the Christmas season. Unfortunately, there is nothing that I can do about it. There is no possibility of early administration of the final exam, allowing students to take the final at another location under supervision, or granting incompletes for other than a medical emergency.

Course Materials

The primary text for this course is *Economic Growth* (second edition) by David N. Weil. The textbook should be available at the Brown Bookstore, as well as at any online textbook retailer. This is the web site for the textbook, where you can find data, useful links, quizzes, etc: http://wps.aw.com/aw_weil_econgrowth_2/

There will be additional readings (articles, book chapters, etc.) that will be distributed on an ad-hoc basis. You should expect three or four reading assignments, each of which will be about 40 pages.

Schedule

Note: Dates for exams and the due date for the writing assignment are firm. Dates on which different topics will be covered are subject to change.

Tue/Wed	9/7-8	no section meeting
Thursday	9/8	Introduction (Chapter 1)
Tuesday	9/13	Overview (Chapter 2)
Tue/Wed		section: math review
Thursday	9/15	Physical Capital (Chapter 3)
Tuesday	9/20	Physical Capital (Chapter 3)
Tue/Wed		section: additional review of math and Solow model (if needed)
Thursday	9/22	Population and Economic Growth (chapter 4)
Tuesday	9/27	Population and Economic Growth (chapter 4) Problem set #1 due in class
Tue/Wed		section: go over problem set #1
Thursday	9/29	Rosh Hashanah – no class
Tuesday	10/4	Future Population Trends (chapter 5)
Tue/Wed		section: midterm review
Thursday	10/6	First Midterm Exam (in class)
Tuesday	10/11	Human Capital (chapter 6)
Tue/Wed		section: go over midterm

Thursday	10/13	Measuring Productivity (chapter 7)
Tuesday	10/18	Measuring Productivity (chapter 7) Problem set #2 due in class
Tue/Wed		section: go over problem set #2
Thursday	10/20	The role of technology in growth (chapter 8)
Tuesday	10/25	Ch 8/ Ch 9
Tues/Wed		no section
Thursday	10/27	The cutting edge of technology (chapter 9)
Tuesday	11/1	review for midterm #2 Problem Set #3 due in class
Tue/Wed		section: go over problem set #3
Thursday	11/3	Second midterm exam
Tuesday	11/8	Efficiency (Chapter 10)
Tue/Wed		section: go over second midterm exam
Thursday	11/10	Growth in the Open Economy (Chapter 11)
Tuesday	11/15	Government (Chapter 12)
Tue/Wed		no section
Thursday	11/17	ch 12/13
Tuesday	11/22	Inequality (Chapter 13)
Tue/Wed		no section
Thursday	11/24	Thanksgiving: no class
Tuesday	11/29	Culture (Chapter 14)
Tue/Wed		no section
Thursday	12/1	Geography, Climate, and Natural Resources (chapter 15)
Tuesday	12/6	Resources and the Environment at the Global Level (Chapter 16)
Tue/Wed		no section
Thursday	12/8	Wrap up (Chapter 17) (this is first day of reading period)
Monday	12/12	writing assignment due at 5:00 pm
Tuesday	12/20	Final Exam 2:00 – 5:00 (Exam Group 10)