



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

ELE 3730 Development Economics

Programme

Elective

Responsible for the course

Per Botolf Maurseth

Department

Department of Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

Development problems are decisive for living standards for a large share of the world's population. Development issues are also important to understand international economic policy and development assistance policies. The course gives an introduction to development economics. Emphasis is placed on theory and empirics. The course also gives an introduction to development assistance politics.

Learning outcome

The course gives an introduction to development economics, development policies and development assistance politics. The course is divided into four parts. The first part gives an introduction to development trends and to main concepts in development economics. The students will be given presentations of living standards in poor countries, basic trends in economic development and the role of poor countries in the world economy. The next part is about development economic issues with an emphasis on internal relationships in poor countries. Growth economics, inequality, institutions and structural change are keywords. The third part focuses on international economics and international relations. Relationships between poor countries and between poor and rich countries are discussed. An introduction to the main functions of international organisations like the WTO, IMF and the World Bank is given. The last part of the course is about development assistance and development assistance politics.

Acquired Knowledge

On completion of the course, students will be able to handle main concepts in development economics analytically. The students will have an understanding of how development depends both on internal relationships within poor countries and on international relationships and the international economy. The students will have gained an understanding of the importance of structural change from agriculture to manufacturing and service production and will have acquired some knowledge about barriers to development. They will also have knowledge about main international organisations like the WTO, IMF and the World Bank, and will have learnt about main dilemmas in development assistance policy.

Acquired Skills

On completion of the course the students will have acquired basic skills enabling them to apply economic theory to understand situations in poor countries. They will have analytical abilities to analyse development issues and be able to discuss main topics and different approaches in development economics. They will be able to follow debates on development assistance.

Reflection

On completion of the course students will have gained insights into main dilemmas in development policy. How can priorities in development policy be understood? How can development assistance consolidate or change political power? How can development assistance contribute to development compared to international trade or international investments?

Prerequisites

The students should have some insights in basic macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Ray, Debraj. 1998. Development economics. Princeton University Press

Articles:

Utvalgte artikler og tilleggslitteratur opplyses det om ved semesterstart.

Recommended reading

Course outline

- Living standards in poor countries.
- Economic growth and development.
- Structural change from agriculture to manufacturing and services.
- Inequality
- Governance and corruption
- International trade
- International investments
- Development assistance

Computer-based tools

Computer-based tools are not required.

Learning process and workload

The course will be conducted as a combination of lectures and exercises.

There are 5 mandatory exercises during the semester. Feedback to the students during the semester will be given electronically or in class.

Detailed information about the exercises will be given when course starts.

Recommended workload in hours

Activity	Hours
Participation in lectures	36
Participation in assignment reviews by lecturer	7
Work on mandatory exercises (approx. 1,5 hour per exercise)	8
Reading and self study	146
Examination	3
Total recommended use of time	200

Use of hours

Examination

A 3 hour individual written examination concludes the course.

Examination code(s)

ELE 37301 – written examination which accounts for 100% of the grade in the course ELE 3730 Development Economics, 7.5 credits.

Examination support materials

BI defined calculator. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS BA II Plus™ are allowed

Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary.

<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

Re-sit exam are offered next time course is arranged.

Additional information