**ECONOMICS 172: Issues in African Economic Development**

**SPRING 2012 SYLLABUS**

Professor Edward Miguel (emiguel@econ.berkeley.edu, 510-642-7162)

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:30pm, 159 Mulford
Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:30am, Evans 647

**Description:** This course will examine major current issues in development economics, with a focus on how they relate to sub-Saharan Africa. The course will also emphasize the application of econometric evaluation methods in development economics. The course is divided into two parts: I. Economic Theories and Methods; II. History, Institutions and Politics

**Prerequisites:** At least one prior term of intermediate economics (i.e., Economics 100A or 100B or equivalent), and some prior coursework in statistics or econometrics.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on three components:
- Three take-home Assignments, each worth 10 percent (30 percent)
- Midterm examination (30 percent)
- Final Examination (40 percent)
( Classroom participation may be a factor in borderline grading cases.)

**Teaching Assistants:** Pierre Bachas (bachas@econ.berkeley.edu), Tadeja Gracner (tgracner@econ.berkeley.edu)

The required readings are:
-- Reading packets of photocopied articles can be picked up at Copy Central on Bancroft Ave.

**I. Economic Theories and Methods**

**Lectures 1-2: Patterns of African economic development (1/17, 1/19)**


*Africa’s Turn?* pp. 1-46.

*Emerging Africa*, Chapters 1-2, pp. 9-46.

**Lectures 3-4: Theories of economic growth (1/24, 1/26)**
[Tools: Economic growth theory; Ordinary least squares (OLS) regression]


**Lectures 5-8: Geography, health and development (1/31, 2/2, 2/7, 2/9)**
[Tools: Randomized evaluation]


(Problem Set 1 handed out 2/2, due 2/9)

**Lectures 9-10: The economics of HIV/AIDS (2/14, 2/16)**
[Tools: Difference-in-differences analysis; expected utility maximization]


[Tools: Regression discontinuity (RD)]


(Problem Set 2 handed out 2/23, due 3/1)

**Lectures 14-15: Economic shocks, violence and rural households (3/1, 3/6)**
[Tools: Field data collection]
Economic Gangsters, chapters 5-6, pp. 111-158.

(Midterm Examination – 3/15 in class, covering lectures 1-15)

II. History, Institutions and Politics

Lectures 16-17: Corruption and underdevelopment (3/8, 3/13)


Lectures 18-20: Historical Legacies of Slavery and Colonialism (3/20, 3/22, 4/3)


Lectures 21-23: Debates on foreign aid, trade and globalization (4/5, 4/10, 4/12 – Guest lecture 4/12)


(Problem Set 3 handed out 4/5, due 4/12)

Lectures 24-25: Ethnic and social divisions (4/17, 4/19)


Africa’s Turn?, pp. 49-137


(Final examination during the regular exam period, Monday May 7, 11:30am-2:30pm)

Map of Africa, today