

# ECON2510 Spring21 S01 Economic Development I

## Economics 2520 Development Economics I Spring 2020

This course is part of a two part graduate sequence in development economics. The goal of this sequence is introduce the central issues in development economics and to explore the application of theoretical and empirical microeconomic analysis to gain deeper insights into these questions. If development is going to be your major field you are expected to do both courses. Economics of Development I covers issues related to household decision making including fertility, marriage, human development, and labor supply and will also address selective topics in agriculture and natural resources. We will assume that you have taken the first-year graduate sequences in microeconomics and econometrics.

### **Class Times:**

MW 10:30-11:50

Zoom: 976 0121 5239

### **Professor:**

Professor: Andrew D. Foster ([afoster@brown.edu](mailto:afoster@brown.edu) (<mailto:afoster@brown.edu>))

Office Phone: 401 863 2537

203 Menco Hall (68 Waterman St)

Office hours: Wednesday 1-4 (scheduled) 4-5 (open).

Office hours appointment calendar: [Click here \(https://calendar.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UUIzSVR1bUVpNzktfGRIZmF1bHR8NjFjNjU0OWRkM2NhOGM1ZGY5ZTRjNGEwNWQ5NDMzN2E\)](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UUIzSVR1bUVpNzktfGRIZmF1bHR8NjFjNjU0OWRkM2NhOGM1ZGY5ZTRjNGEwNWQ5NDMzN2E)

Zoom room: [brown.zoom.us/my/afoster](https://brown.zoom.us/my/afoster)

### **Course Requirements (% of final grade):**

**Class participation.** A primary goal of this course is for you to develop a working knowledge of the current literature on the empirical microeconomics of development. We will focus on one to two articles per class (I will try to give notice in the previous class), but expect you to demonstrate a good working knowledge of all the articles on the syllabus when you come to class and for the exam. This does not mean reading every word but it does mean understanding the key elements of the paper (question, key theoretical insights, primary data sources, identification arguments, central empirical results, and limitations, as relevant). (25%)

**Paper writing:** You will be guided through the process of writing a paper. One of the advantages of the subject areas covered in this course (and one of the features that helped push forward these topics in

the first place) is the possibility of carrying out the analysis using readily available household survey data. You will start by generating ideas for something that could in principle be finished over the course of the semester. Then these ideas will be refined and you will identify a data source. You will also develop and implement a theoretical framework, identification strategy, and carry out the analysis. Finally, you will write up the paper. By the end of the semester we will assess whether the paper could be part of a third-year paper and/or further developed for submission to a journal. (25%)

You will do up to four short problem sets. These are generally designed to help you practice theoretical and empirical methods discussed in class. You are welcome to work and share solutions with others in the class. You should, however, separately writeup and individually submit the final product. You can have a grace period of up to two weeks on one of the problem sets. After using up this credit late assignments will not be accepted so please plan ahead. (25%).

There will be a final exam. This will test your knowledge of the literature as well as your ability to apply the methods of economic reasoning used in the class (25%).

You are encouraged to attend the Development Tea on Tuesdays 11-12 and the Applied Micro Lunch on Tuesday 12-1 and the Applied Micro Seminar Thursday 4-5:30.

Readings and are listed in Canvas Modules. There may be some adjustments in assignments over the course of the semester so please check the online modules regularly so that you can complete the reading and assignments as scheduled. Most readings will be available as links in the modules. You may need a VPN connection to access them from off-campus. A number of assignments are chapters from Becker's book "A Treatise on the Family". I did not order this book from the bookstore but it can be purchased online at amazon or Harvard University Press <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674906990> (https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674906990). Or you can borrow from a third year who took the course last year with Professor Steinberg.

Time:

*Time:* Anticipated time requirements for this course are as follows: Classes: 28 hours (32 @ 80 minutes), Papers: 50 hours, Problem Sets: 10 hours (2 @ 5 hours), Readings: 96 (48 @ 2 hours), Final Exam and Prep: 16. Total: 200 hours.

### **COVID-19 Plans:**

Class meetings will consist of two 90 minute synchronous sessions per week. The first two classes will be online only. After that we will discuss whether we should move to hybrid mode. All classes will be recorded and available for student viewing regardless of how we proceed.

### **Software:**

Students need to have access to both Stata and Maple. You have a number of options. First, both applications are available on campus computers or available for free through Brown's [remote apps server](https://ithelp.brown.edu/kb/articles/connect-to-brown-s-remoteapp-service-on-windows). (https://ithelp.brown.edu/kb/articles/connect-to-brown-s-remoteapp-service-on-windows). This

should suffice if you are close to Providence and have a good internet connection. Second, Stata can be downloaded from the server but requires a keyed connection and thus reasonable internet. Third, both can be purchased either for the semester or as a permanent license. Stata information for six-month \$48 or a permanent \$225 license is [here \(https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/\)](https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/). For Maple there is a [permanent license \(https://www.maplesoft.com/products/maple/student/faqs.aspx\)](https://www.maplesoft.com/products/maple/student/faqs.aspx) for \$100 and I have arranged for a semester rental \$29 (email me for the license code).

**University required/recommended syllabus elements:**

[Technological Support \(http://afosterri.org/courses/technology.pdf\)](http://afosterri.org/courses/technology.pdf)

[Recordings for Class Purposes Only \(http://afosterri.org/courses/recording.pdf\)](http://afosterri.org/courses/recording.pdf)

[Following COVID-19 Precautions in Class \(http://afosterri.org/courses/hybrid.pdf\)](http://afosterri.org/courses/hybrid.pdf)

[Course Expenses \(http://afosterri.org/courses/books.pdf\)](http://afosterri.org/courses/books.pdf)

[Accessibility \(http://afosterri.org/courses/ada.pdf\)](http://afosterri.org/courses/ada.pdf)