WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS
Department of Economics

Economic Growth (ECON 572)    Spring 2015:  M 2:30-5:30 PM (Seigle 204)
Professor:  Ping Wang                     E-mail:  pingwang@wustl.edu
Office Hours:  M 1:15-2:15 PM & By appointment   Office:  340 Seigle Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is the first of a two-module seminar in economic growth, covering the first 7 weeks from January 18 to March 4, with the second module to be lectured by Professor Michele Boldrin. This first module is primarily devoted to contemporary issues in growth and development. It begins by reviewing the fundamentals, followed by several advanced topics in economic transition and transformation as well as in skills, institutions and trade through the process of economic growth and development. The main purpose of this course is to help you explore the frontier of contemporary issues in growth and development to jump-start your potentially fruitful research in the areas.

GRADING:

Your performance in this module will be assessed based on (i) two homework assignments (25% each) and (ii) a term paper (related to topics covered, 50%, graded based on literature review, motivation and sketch of a new idea; double submission of a paper to multiple courses not permitted). No deferral of homework or term paper submission will be granted except medical or family emergency. Your course grade will be the simple average of the grades received from the two modules.

TEXTS:

There is no required text. Yet, limited chapters of the following books may be useful at various occasions:


TIMETABLE:

1/25  Lecture A-1, A-2
2/1    Lecture A-3, B-1
2/8    Lecture B-1, B-2, HW#1 distributed
2/15   Lecture B-2, B-3, HW#1 due by 2:40 PM
2/22   Lecture C-1, C-2, HW#2 distributed
2/29   Lecture C-2, C-3, HW#2 due by 2:40 PM
3/4    Presentation of term-paper-in-progress (tentatively, 4:00-6:30 PM)
3/21   final term paper due by 1:00 PM (hard copy only; in my department mail box)

* Everyone is encouraged to join the MSG (Macro Study Group) run by Wang, the MRG (Macro Reading Group) run by Manuelli and Shin, and the Study Group run by Boldrin and Santaeulalia-Llopis.
READINGS: (* Required; + Recommended)

A. Fundamentals: Stylized Facts and Theoretical Foundation

(AC), ch. 1.
(BS), chs. 1, 2.
Lucas, R.E. Jr. (1990), “Why doesn't capital flow from rich to poor countries?” AER, 80, 92-96.
+Hall, R., Jones, C. (1999), “Why do some countries produce so much more output per worker
than others?” QJE, 114, 83-116.
1-17.
in (BC), ch. 1.
Growth, North-Holland.
Louis.

1. Basic Models

(AC), ch. 11.
(AH), chs. 5, 10.
(BS), chs. 4, 5.
(GH), chs. 3, 4.
S103-S125.
RES, 59, 645-661.
Implications,” JPE, 98, 1008-1038.
with Physical and Human Capital: Balanced Growth and Transitional Dynamics,” JET, 68,
149-173.
Louis.
2. The Shumpeterian Theory of Economic Growth

(AC), chs. 15, 18, sec. 21.4.
(AH), chs. 2, 3.
(GH), chs. 3, 4, 11, 12.


3. The Big Push Theory of Economic Development

(RY), ch. 5.


B. Economic Transition and Transformation

1. Dynamic Transition and Economic Development


Maddison, Angus (1982), Phases of Capitalist Development, Oxford University Press, UK.


+Parente, S. and E. Prescott (1994), “Barriers to Technology Adoption and Development,” JPE,
2. Industrial Transformation


3. Demographic Transition

(AC), sec. 21.2.
(BS), sec. 9.2.
C. Skills, Institutions and Trade in Economic Development

1. Labor-Market Development and Human Capital Evolution

(AC), ch. 10.

2. Institutional Development, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Capital

(AC), chs. 22, 23.
(AH), ch. 9.
(DZ), chs. 3, 7, 8, 14.


3. International Development and Globalization

(AH), ch. 11.
(GH), chs. 6, 7.