

**African Economic Development
Lecture (075 030) and Seminar (075 031)
Winter Term 2019/20**

Course description

The aim of this course is to increase the capacity of students to use their knowledge of economic theory and development economics in rigorous analysis of a subset of the critical issues facing policy makers in sub-Saharan Africa. The focus is on both microeconomic and macroeconomic issues in Africa. "African Economic Development", consisting of a lecture and a seminar, intends to explain the reasons for the continued widespread poverty throughout the continent. The heterogeneity of African economies is stressed and students are expected to focus their written work (i.e., the seminar paper) on particular countries and issues. The course also emphasises the importance of a detailed grasp of economic history as a basis for critically assessing generalised debates on the determinants of recent economic performance.

Enrolment

While Master students from the Faculty of Management and Economics must enrol in both the lecture and the seminar, students from other faculties might prefer to enrol in the lecture only. If students from other faculties participate in the seminar, it is expected that they enrol in the lecture too. For the entire module, students may obtain 10 (ECTS) credit points, whereas they may receive 5 ECTS for the lecture and an additional 5 ECTS for the seminar.

Prerequisites

Some prior coursework in development economics (recommended) and knowledge of econometrics at the master level (mandatory!), that is, modules *Econometrics*, *Microeconometrics*, *Econometric Evaluation of Economic Policies* or equivalent. Master students from other faculties, e.g., ECUE or EELP, may enrol without knowledge of econometrics (lecture only).

A. Lecture

Class times: Tuesdays, 8.30-12.00 noon, GD 02/236, from 8 October to 26 November 2019. Important note: Enrolment for this course will take place in first session, that is, on 8 October 2019. All students that are interested in this course have to show up on that day! There will be no pre-enrolment.

Topics covered

Big picture: becoming familiar with African economic development
Economic growth
Geography, health and development
Human capital
Trade and foreign direct investment
Historical legacies of slavery and colonialism
Ethnic and linguistic divisions
Violence and conflicts
Institutions and Good Governance
Culture
Foreign aid

Grading: Final exam (90 minutes), which makes up 100% of the grade for Master students from other faculties and 50% for Master students from the Faculty of Management and Economics. The final exam will take place on 26 November 2019.

Literature and lecture slides: Will be posted in Moodle. The password for accessing Moodle will be provided in the first sessions or can be obtained from the FSI-Wiwi Fachschaft (<http://passwort.fsi-wiwi.de/>).

Contact person:

Prof. Busse (GD 03/325, matthias.busse@rub.de), Office Hours: Wednesdays 11-12 or by appointment.

B. Seminar

Class times:

Tuesday, 8 October 2019, 8.30-10.00 am, GD 02/236 (Introductory session and enrolment)

Thursday, 31 October 2019, 4.00-7.30 pm, GD 02/236 (Scientific methods, not compulsory but recommended for students that have not participated before)

Tuesday, 7 January 2020, 8.30-12.00 am, GD 02/236 (Presentation of papers)

Wednesday, 8 January 2020, 14.00-18.00 pm, GD 03/158 (Presentation of papers)

Additional class times might have to be scheduled.

Seminar topics

1. The Impact of China on Selected African Countries
2. Effects of Black Economic Empowerment Policies in South Africa and Zimbabwe
3. Causes and Effects of Conflicts in (South) Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo
4. The Impact of Structural Adjustment Programs in Ghana and Zambia

Note that the effects/impact to be analysed as part of the four topics should refer predominantly to economic issues. Enrolment in the seminar will be limited. Students may either write their term paper alone or in a group (max. two students). Each student/group will be responsible for writing a term paper (12-15 pages in length (including tables and figures), 2.5 cm margins top/bottom/left/right, 1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman 12 point font) and a presentation. Papers are due on Monday, 6 January 2020, 9 am). Please submit the paper electronically via e-mail to the lecturer.

Grading: The term paper makes up 25% of the grade for Master students and 50 % of the grade of Master students from other faculties. The presentation of the paper and active class participation make up the other 25% (50%) of the grade.

Contact person:

Prof. Busse (GD 03/325, matthias.busse@rub.de), Office Hours: Wednesdays 11-12 or by appointment.