

ECON 241
Economic Growth
SPRING 2013

Professor: *Ufuk Akcigit*, McNeil 445, email: uakcigit@econ.upenn.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 16:00 - 18:00

Lecture Time and Location: T, Th 13:30 - 15:00, Fisher-Bennett Hall 231.

Teaching Assistant: *Sina Ates*, McNeil 539, email: sinaates@sas.upenn.edu

Office Hours: Monday 16:00 - 17:00

Thursday 16:00 - 17:00

Recitation Time and Location: TBD.

**Important: When you have a question/problem regarding the class material or grading,
please contact your TA first!**

Textbook: Aghion, Philippe and Peter Howitt, 2009. *The Economics of Growth*. MIT Press.

Course Description: The process of economic growth and the sources of differences in economic performance across nations are some of the most interesting, important and challenging areas in modern social science. You cannot travel or read the news without wondering why differences in standards of living among countries are so large. The primary purpose of this course is to introduce undergraduate students to these major issues and to the theoretical tools necessary for studying them. The course therefore strives to provide students with a solid background in dynamic economic analysis, as well as empirical examples and data analysis. We will cover models at an abstract and advanced level. You **MUST** have the degree of mathematical maturity associated with the concepts of sets, functions, derivatives, integrals, Taylor series, optimization, ordinary differential equations and other material covered in Math 140/141 or Math 150/151. Some basic knowledge on regression analysis is also required.

Grading: There will be overall 4 homework assignments, 3 midterms and 1 final exam. Your final grade will be based on your scores from the final exam, **two of the three midterms** (the two midterms with the highest grades) and **three of the four homework assignments** (again the three assignments with the highest grades). Note that if you do well enough in your first 2 midterms, you can avoid the third midterm but **CANNOT** avoid the final exam. They will count toward the grade as follows.

3 Highest Assignments (total)	10%
1st Highest Midterm	30%
2nd Highest Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%
Lowest Midterm	0%
Lowest Homework Assignment	0%

No Make-Up Exam: There will be NO make-up test if you have to miss any of the midterms unless you miss **2 or more** midterms due to:

- 3 exams scheduled within one calendar day
- documented illness/health emergencies
- documented disabilities that allow you to take the exam under other circumstances
- a death in the family.

If you miss a midterm (with or without a valid excuse), I will count it as your lowest midterm and give 0 weight as the above table indicates. In this case, your final grade will be based on the other two midterms that you attended (30% weight to each), final exam (30%) and the 3 assignments (10%).

Note that each exam grade will be normalized by the median score of that particular exam.

Regrading: If you have complaints about the grading, do the following. Within 1 week after the test was returned hand back to me your graded test and a written statement explaining your complain (i.e. which question you think was graded wrongly and why you think it was graded wrongly). I will then regrade the whole assignment. Please note that there is **no guarantee** that, after the test has been regraded, your score will be higher than before and **it may be lower**. A week after the test has been returned the scores cannot be changed anymore and no further complaints will be accepted.

Exam dates: Homework due dates and exam dates are indicated below. Please review the dates carefully. Completed homeworks are to be handed in **in the beginning of the class** on the day they are due.

Assignment	Dates
Assignment #1	Feb 5
Exam #1	Feb 7
Assignment #2	Feb 28
Exam #2	Mar 12
Assignment #3	Apr 2
Exam #3	Apr 4
Assignment #4	Apr 18
Final Exam	TBD

If you have a conflict with any of these dates (including religious observance) please let me know before January 19th. After that date I will NOT accommodate personal issues. Travel plans are not an acceptable reason for rescheduling.

Content of the Course: This is an outline of the topics that I intend to cover. The list of topics may be revised during the course as I may not be able to cover all the material.

Topics
Introduction
Solow Model (Exogenous Growth)
The Economics of Ideas
Romer Model (Endogenous Growth)
Technology Transfer
Human Capital
Government
Income Inequality
Social Infrastructure
Alternative Theories of Growth
Natural Resources