

## **Economics 156: Economic Growth**

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Office Hours: Friday 1-2 and by appointment (basement of Robinson Hall)

Class meetings: T.,Th. 10:30-11:50 Wilson 103

Conference Section meetings:

CO 1 Monday 12-12:50 Wilson 301  
CO 2 Monday 7-7:50 Wilson 101

**Note:** sections only meet on some weeks. See schedule below.

**Course Web Site:** can be reached through: <http://mycourses.brown.edu/webct>

### **Course Description**

A theoretical and empirical examination of economic growth and income differences between countries. Focuses on both the historical experience of countries that are currently rich and the process of catch-up among poor countries. Topics include population growth, accumulation of physical and human capital, technological change, natural resources, income distribution, geography, government, and culture. Prerequisites: EC 111 and 121 or permission of instructor.

### **Requirements and Grading**

The course grade will be based on two midterm exams (18% each), a short paper (19%), three homework assignments (total of 10%), and a final exam (35%). The dates of the exams and due dates for homework assignments and the final paper are listed below.

Homework assignments will be due on Mondays, the same day on which section meets. Homework assignments can either be handed in at the beginning of the noon section, or placed in the TA's mailbox in the basement of Robinson Hall by 11:50 AM. Homework cannot be handed in at the 7:00 PM section.

Absences from exams will be automatically excused only in cases of medical or family

emergency, which must be verified by a letter from the Dean. Any other requests to be excused from an exam must be presented in writing within the first two weeks of the semester. Late homework will not be accepted. Late papers will be severely penalized on a sliding scale depending on how late they are handed in.

## Course Materials

The primary text for this course is *Economic Growth* by David N. Weil. The textbook should be available at the Brown Bookstore, as well as at any online textbook retailer. I have also placed copies on three hour reserve at the Rock. Additional readings will be distributed on an ad-hoc basis. This is the web site for the textbook, where you can find data, useful links, quizzes, etc: [http://wps.aw.com/aw\\_weil\\_econgrowth](http://wps.aw.com/aw_weil_econgrowth)

## Schedule

Thursday	9/6	Introduction (chapter 1)
Monday	9/10	Section: math review
Tuesday	9/11	Overview (chapter 2)
Thursday	9/13	No Class (Rosh Hashanah)
Monday	9/17	Section: math review
Tuesday	9/18	Physical Capital (chapter 3)
Thursday	9/20	Physical Capital (chapter 3) / Population and Econ Growth (chapter 4)
Monday	9/24	<b>Problem set #1 due.</b> Section: go over problem set #1
Tuesday	9/25	Population and Economic Growth (chapter 4)
Thursday	9/27	Future Population Trends (chapter 5)
Monday	10/1	<b>Problem set #2 due.</b> Section: go over problem set #2
Tuesday	10/2	Human Capital (chapter 6)
Thursday	10/4	Measuring Productivity (chapter 7)
Monday	10/8	Columbus Day, no classes
Tuesday	10/9	Measuring Productivity (chapter 7)
<b>Wednesday</b>	10/10	evening review section for midterm exam
Thursday	10/11	<b>First Midterm Exam</b>
Monday	10/15	Section: go over first midterm
Tuesday	10/16	The Role of Technology in Growth (chapter 8)
Thursday	10/18	The Role of Technology in Growth (chapter 8)
Monday	10/22	no section

Tuesday	10/23	The Cutting Edge of Technology (chapter 9)
Thursday	10/25	The Cutting Edge of Technology (chapter 9)
Monday	10/29	<b>Problem set #3 due.</b> Section: go over problem set #3
Tuesday	10/30	Efficiency (Chapter 10)
Thursday	11/1	Growth in the Open Economy (chapter 11)
Monday	11/5	Section: review for second midterm
Tuesday	11/6	<b>Second Midterm Exam</b>
Thursday	11/8	Government (chapter 12)
Monday	11/12	section: go over second midterm
Tuesday	11/13	Government (chapter 12) / Inequality (chapter 13)
Thursday	11/15	Inequality (chapter 13)
Monday	11/19	no section
Tuesday	11/20	Culture (chapter 14)
Thursday	11/22	Thanksgiving. No Class
Monday	11/26	no section
Tuesday	11/27	Geography, Climate, and Natural Resources (chapter 15)
Thursday	11/29	Special Topic: Economic Growth in Africa
Monday	12/3	no section
Tuesday	12/4	Resources and the Environment at the Global Level (chapter 16)
Thursday	12/6	Conclusion and Review (Chapter 17)
Wednesday	12/12	<b>writing assignment due at noon</b>
Wednesday	12/19	<b>Final Exam, 9:00-12:00</b>