

Dr. Daniel O Murgu

ECO 4933 | Topics in Theory | Fall 2015 (81462)

Course Overview

This course will introduce students to the Theory of Economic Growth

Meeting Times

Class lectures will take place on Tuesdays and Thursday s from 3:30PM to 4:45PM in PC 431.

Required Textbook

The textbook for this course is Introduction to Economic Growth, Third Edition, W. W. Norton & Company, 2013 by Charles I. Jones and Dietrich Vollrath. ISBN-13: 978-0393919172. You should be able to find this textbook in the FIU Bookstore.

Office Hours, Website and Contact Information

I will hold office hour in the Department of Economics on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:30PM to 3:30PM.

Phone: 305-348-3281

Fax: 305-348-1524

email: dmurgo@fiu.edu

web page: faculty.fiu.edu/~dmurgo/teaching_current.html or bit.ly/dm_fiu1

Rules

Attendance is not mandatory, however it is strongly recommended. Assigned Homework will be previously discussed in class. Additionally, changes of schedule, changes of topics and other events related to the course will be announced in class and posted in the web page. If you are absent when those announcements are made, you are responsible for learning about these in-class happenings. There are no late make-up tests. No exceptions. If you know in advance that you will not be able to take a scheduled exam, you can take it beforehand. But you have to let me know via email at least two week in advance. If some unanticipated event prevents you from taking an exam, proper documentation must be submitted to justify you absence so that it does not affect your grade.

Courtesy

You are expected to turn off your cell phone during classes and exams. If you need to make calculations during an exam you will only be allowed to use a regular calculator (scientific or financial). Your cellphone, smart phone or tablet calculator cannot be used.

Tentative Content

These are the topics I intend to cover in class, time permitting. The specific topics and their order are subject to change.

1. Introduction: The Facts of Economic Growth
2. The Solow Model
3. Empirical Applications of Neoclassical Growth Models
4. The Economics of Ideas
5. The Engine of Growth
6. A Simple Model of Growth and Development
7. Social Infrastructure and Long-Run Economic Performance
8. Alternative Theories of Endogenous Growth
9. Understanding Economic Growth

Homework Assignments

There will be four homework assignments. They may be submitted individually or as a group of no more than five students. Members of each group are responsible for avoiding free riding. The content of each Homework assignment will be announced in class. The due dates are final. No extensions will be granted to complete the Homework. No exceptions. Homework has to be turned in at the beginning to the class on the designated due date.

IMPORANT: Homework must be submitted typed in Letter size paper. If different members of a team solve different parts of a homework I expect it to be submitted with the questions in the proper order and the sheets properly stapled.

Homework #1: Due date: Thursday, September 17, 2015.

Homework #2: Due date: Tuesday, October 8, 2015.

Homework #3: Due date: Thursday, October 29, 2015.

Homework #4: Due date: Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Exams

Exams will draw material from the book and lecture notes. Tests will consist of essay questions and/or exercises. There will be two Midterm Exams only. The scheduled dates and times are:

Midterm #1: Thursday, October 1, 2015, from 3:30PM to 4:45PM.

Midterm #2: Thursday, November 12, 2015 from 3:30PM to 4:45PM.

The topics covered in each exam will be announced in class beforehand and posted in the webpage. It will closely follow what was covered in class up to the lecture previous to the day of the exam.

IMPORTANT: Exam attendance. You have to be on time for each exam. If you arrive 15 minutes after the starting time access to the room will be at the Instructor's discretion. If you arrive after the first student has turned in his or her exam you will not be able to take the exam at all.

Presentation

In lieu of the Final Exam students will prepare a presentation. It can be done individually or in teams of no more than five students. I will provide a list of papers related to the topics discussed in class and each team will select the paper they will prepare for the presentation. No two teams can select the same paper. Teams will have to inform about their members and preferred papers and the latter will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

The deadline to form the groups and select the papers to present is **October 31**. Those students that do not choose a paper or group by said date will get zero for that assignment. Below you will find the tentative schedule for the presentations. If extra time is needed, some presentations will take place during the exam week. Each team or individual student must submit a written summary of the topic presented from three to five pages long, along with a copy of the PowerPoint file on, or before the day of the presentation. The summary and PowerPoint are only support documents. They are not substitutes for the in-class presentation. Each group will choose a representative who will be the sole person responsible for communications with me and submission of the requested material.

Tentative Presentation Schedule

Presentation Day #1: Thursday, November 19, from 3:30PM to 4:45PM.

Presentation Day #2: Tuesday, November 24, from 3:30PM to 4:45PM.

Presentation Day #3: Tuesday, December 1, from 3:30PM to 4:45PM.

Presentation Day #4: Thursday, December 3, from 3:30PM to 4:45PM.

Grading

The final grade of the course will result from the two midterms, the presentation and the homework. Each item will have the following weight: Midterms: 20% each; Presentation: 30%. Homework will account for the remaining 30% of the grade. Although you will be assigned a grade for each exam or homework, the final grade will be curved taking into account the performance of the class as a whole. Chances are that your final grade will be better than the one resulting from the grading scale below.

Grading Scale

A:	96–100
A-:	90-95
B+:	87-89
B:	83-86
B-:	80-82
C+:	75-79
C:	70-74
D:	69 and below

Grade Postings

After each exam or homework do-date I will post information about the grades in the web page. This information will contain individual grades and also statistics about the performance of the class as a whole (average, standard deviation, median, mode, maximum and minimum). This way you will have a clear picture of where you stand individually and relative to the class. If you have questions or concerns about your grade see me ASAP. It pays to be proactive in this matter.