

Course Syllabus (Current as of 12/29/20)

Law B578 - Legal Problems of Economic Development Seminar

Professor Anita Ramasastry
Office Hours: By appointment

Faculty Assistants

UW Law Course Support Team

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Course description:

This course is offered in three 2-credit modules in Autumn, Winter, and Spring of 2020-21. Most students will be enrolled in all three quarters of this core course for the Sustainable International Development Graduate Program

The field of law and development examines the role of law in fostering economic and social development in developing countries, emerging markets and nations in transition. The winter quarter module provides a historical overview of the role of law in alleviating poverty and exposes students to key theoretical perspectives. The course will address the following questions: What are the important legal issues surrounding foreign trade, international finance and direct foreign investment? How do legal structures assist or impede growth and improved standards of living for broader population groups? Students will learn some basic economic concepts but are not expected to have any prior economic training.

Learning Objectives:

This course aims to:

- Introduce students to historical aspects of modern law and development movement (from decolonization to present);
- Ensure students know the key actors and stakeholders in law and development (from domestic aid organizations, international financial institutions, host governments, civil society organizations) and key development vocabulary/terminology;
- Familiarize students with key writings in the field of law and economic development;
- Provide students with basic understanding of theories of development economics and different approaches to using law as a tool to promote economic growth;
- Provide students with overview of how donor governments and international organizations support development projects and legal reform in countries that are aid recipients; and
- Teach students to think critically about development assistance and how governments can encourage policies that promise inclusive growth and demand-driven reform

Required Text.

Michael P. Todaro & Stephen C. Smith, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (12th Ed.) (2015) Pearson.

This textbook will be used during autumn quarter, but primarily during winter quarter. The text will be supplemented by a variety of scholarly articles; reports; newspaper articles; and materials produced by development agencies and non-governmental organizations, most of which will be available on the course CANVAS page (requires UWNetID to access). The course readings will serve as background information for discussion.

NOTE: An electronic version of the text is available and is a less costly option than the hard copy.

Grading. Grades will be based upon:

- (1) Final exam (60%) (Students will receive copies of practice exam in advance of the course final)
- (2) 5 Mini assignments (Bi-weekly – meant to give students “hands on” application of key concepts(30%). These will be posted on CANVAS under the assignments tab and will be due at the end of the week in which the assignment is given (Weeks 2,4,6,8 and 10)
- (4) Class Participation (10%)

Law School Attendance Policy. Under changes to ABA Accreditation Standard 304, adopted in August 2004, a law school shall require regular and punctual class attendance. At any time after the fifth week of a course (halfway through a summer session course), a student who has been determined by the instructor to have attended fewer than 80 percent of the class sessions in any course will be required to drop the course from his or her registration upon the instructor’s so indicating to the Academic Services Office. An instructor may also impose stricter attendance standards or other sanctions for nonattendance, including lowering of a grade, provided that students are informed at the start of the course of the instructor’s attendance rules and possible sanctions.

Access and Accommodation. Your experience in this class is important to us. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to us at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability@uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. You may also contact Dean for Students Anna Endter at aendter@uw.edu.

Religious Accommodations. “Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>) (Links to an external site.). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>) (Links to an external site.).”

Winter Quarter Readings

Class One (January 5)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Three, Classical Theories of Economic Growth and Development

Economist Article; *Notorious GDP* (October 26, 2020) (posted on CANVAS)

Class Two (January 12)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Four, Models of Development and Underdevelopment

OECD, Perspectives on Global Development 2019: Rethinking Development Strategies, Chapter Four : A Historical Overview of Development Paradigms

Class Three (January 19)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Five, Poverty Inequality and Development

Fermin Koop, *Poverty Line, Shomverty Kline: Backed by AI, Researchers want a new way to measure poverty*, ZME Science December 18, 2020

Janet Hunt, *There is a Better way of Measuring Poverty, the International Poverty Line is just not Good Enough*, Asia and the Pacific Policy Society, Policy Forum, August 26, 2020

Homi Karas, *The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Extreme Poverty*, Brookings Institution (October 21, 2020)

Class Four (January 26)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Six, Population Growth and Economic Development

Tim Dyson and Sean Fox, Two Part Blog Series, *Is Population Growth Good or Bad for Economic Development?* Institute for Growth (2015)

Class Five (February 2)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Seven, Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration- Theory and Policy

James A Reddy, *China Urges New Era of Mass Migration: Back to the Countryside* Wall Street Journal, November 17, 2020

Class Six (February 9)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Nine, Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development

Homi Kharas, Constanza di Nucci, Kristofer Hamel and Baldwin Tong, *To Move the Needle on Extreme Poverty Focus on the Rural Areas*, Brookings Institution February 21, 2020

Class Seven (February 16)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter Ten The Environment and Development

UN Development Report 2020: *The Next frontier Human development and the Anthropocene*
Chapter 1 (pages 20-38)

Class Eight February 23)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter 11, Development Policymaking and the Roles of Market, State and Civil Society

Class Nine (March 2)

Todaro and Smith, Chapter 12, International Trade Theory and Development Strategy

David Dollar, *The Future of Global Supply Chains: Whare the Implications for International Trade?*, Brookings Institution, November 17, 2020

Class Ten (March 9)

Review and catch up