

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Economic Growth – Fall 2011
Stefan Ruediger
Office: CPS 430
Office Phone: 715-346-4071
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11am – 12:00pm
Email: stefan.ruediger@uwsp.edu

Introduction

Economic Growth uses theoretical and empirical approaches to study the differences in economic growth and income between countries. The focus is 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, and natural resources.

Background

You need a solid understanding of micro- and macroeconomics to succeed in this class. This class will also make some use of algebra and statistics for the discussion and illustration of economic policies.

Textbook

This class will use the book Economic Growth 2e by David N. Weill. (Addison Wesley Longman, New York, 2008).

Learning Objectives

Students that complete this class successfully will be able to **explain** the relationship between GDP, economic growth and the accumulation of physical and human capital and technological. At the end of the class students will be able to **define, examine, and measure** economic growth. Furthermore, students will be able to **analyze** data pertinent to the study of economic growth and use the data to **draw conclusions** about current issues of economic growth.

Assignments

The course will have a **midterm exam (take-home)**, a **final exam (take-home)**, weekly **homework** assignments, and regular **lab assignments**. More detailed information about the assignments will be provided during class.

Grading

Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam (not cumulative)	20%
Homework (8 assignments)	30%
Presentation of Lab Results (Part C) (7 assignments)	10%
Lab Results (Part A&B) (7 assignments)	20%

Policies:

Check your email at least twice a week for important updates and information about the course; no excuses for missed or late assignments due to hardware and/or software failure will be accepted; Makeup exams will only be provided with proper medical or legal documentation. Regular attendance is crucial for success in this class.

Course Outline

Tuesday, September 06, 2011	Facts to be explained	Chapter 1
Thursday, September 08, 2011	Lab Day Excel	
Tuesday, September 13, 2011	Framework for Analysis	Chapter 2
Thursday, September 15, 2011	Physical Capital	Chapter 3
Tuesday, September 20, 2011	Physical Capital	Chapter 3
Thursday, September 22, 2011	Lab Day Excel	
Tuesday, September 27, 2011	Population and Economic Growth	Chapter 4
Thursday, September 29, 2011	Population and Economic Growth	Chapter 4
Tuesday, October 04, 2011	Human Capital	Chapter 6
Thursday, October 06, 2011	Study Day - Work on Lab Assignments for Chapter 4	
Tuesday, October 11, 2011	Human Capital	Chapter 6
Thursday, October 13, 2011	Lab Day Excel	
Tuesday, October 18, 2011	NO CLASS	
Thursday, October 20, 2011	NO CLASS	
Tuesday, October 25, 2011	Exam	
Thursday, October 27, 2011	Exam Review & Measuring Productivity	Chapter 7
Tuesday, November 01, 2011	Measuring Productivity	Chapter 7
Thursday, November 03, 2011	Lab Day Excel – Chapter 7	
Tuesday, November 08, 2011	Technology Growth	Chapter 8
Thursday, November 10, 2011	Technology Growth	Chapter 8
Tuesday, November 15, 2011	Technology Growth	Chapter 8
Thursday, November 17, 2011	Lab Day Excel – Chapter 8	
Tuesday, November 22, 2011	The Cutting Edge of Technology	Chapter 9
Thursday, November 24, 2011	NO CLASS Thanksgiving	
Tuesday, November 29, 2011	The Cutting Edge of Technology	Chapter 9
Thursday, December 01, 2011	Efficiency	Chapter 10
Tuesday, December 06, 2011	Efficiency	Chapter 10
Thursday, December 08, 2011	Lab Day Excel – own ideas	
Tuesday, December 13, 2011	What we have learned and where we are headed	
Thursday, December 15, 2011	Review	
Monday, December 19 th , 2011	FINAL EXAM Exam: 08:00-10:00	

Prescription for Success

- 1) **Attend class.** Prepare for each class by reading the relevant lecture notes and sections of the textbook before and then again after the material is covered in class. Take the time that is necessary to comprehend fully the course material. ***For every hour spent in class, spend an additional two hours outside of class studying the course material.***
- 2) **Review** the lecture notes **daily**. Reconstruct (not just recopy) all graphs and explanations; that is, be able to illustrate and explain the various concepts and models.
- 3) **Ask** questions if you are confused or simply do not fully understand something. By asking questions, you (and other students in the class who probably have the same question) will benefit by understanding the material more quickly and efficiently.
- 4) **Study and work through** the available questions in the book. A study guide is online at: http://wps.aw.com/aw_weil_econgrowth_2/; on this site you can find additional Questions, Practice Exams, and summaries of each chapter.
- 5) **Complete** all homework assignments.
- 6) **Read** the Financial Times, The Economist, and/or Wall Street Journal other economics and business publications to observe and learn how the economic principles developed in class are used to analyze, explain and understand “real-world” economic and business phenomena. You can also read on the many econ-blogs that are available online (just do an online search for “economics blogs”).
- 7) **Consult** tutors, who are available through the Tutoring and Learning Center (www.uwsp.edu/tlc/) if additional one-on-one help is desired or needed. Appointments for this free, individual tutoring must be scheduled several days in advance.

UWSP Policies

Learners with questions regarding affirmative action, equal opportunity, harassment, or information about any other college policies may refer to the current college catalog or student handbook.

ADA Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students are encouraged to register with UWSP Disability Services for assistance with accommodations. Please let me know if you require additional online “classroom” or test accommodations for a disability or functional limitations within two weeks from the first day of class. I will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to voluntarily and confidentially disclose information regarding the nature and extent of a disability. The college cannot assume responsibility for providing accommodations or services to students who have not identified themselves as having a qualifying disability. Disabilities Services is located on campus at 103 Student Services Center, 1108 Fremont Street, UW-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Academic Honesty & Misconduct

Academic honesty is a core principle of learning and scholarship. When you violate this principle, you cheat yourself of the confidence that comes from knowing you have mastered the targeted skills and knowledge. You also hurt all members of the learning community by falsely presenting yourself as having command of competencies with which you are credited, thus degrading the credibility of the college, the program, and your fellow learners who hold the same credential.

All members of the learning community share an interest in protecting the value, integrity, and credibility of the outcomes of this learning experience. We also have the responsibility to censor behaviors that interfere with this effort. The following behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action:

Plagiarism - presenting someone else's words, ideas, or data as your own work.

Fabrication - using invented information or the falsifying research or other findings.

Cheating - misleading others to believe you have mastered competencies or other learning outcomes that you have not mastered. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Copying from another learner's work;
2. Allowing another learner to copy from your work;
3. Using resource materials or information to complete an assessment without permission from your instructor;
4. Collaborating on an assessment (graded assignment or test) without permission from the instructor;
5. Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

Academic Misconduct - other academically dishonest acts such as tampering with grades, taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of an assessment, or selling or buying products such as papers, research, projects or other artifacts that document achievement of learning outcomes. **Academic dishonesty is NOT ACCEPTABLE.** UWSP subscribes to the definitions of academic dishonesty provided by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Academic misconduct in the University of Wisconsin System is defined by UWS Chapter 14. The complete text of the chapter is available to you from the Dean of Students or you can visit http://www.uwsp.edu/accreditation/docs/SA_PU_250.04.pdf for more information. For more detailed information Academic Misconduct and a list of Students Rights and Responsibilities please refer to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf> and <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>