

**ECON 560, Spring 2012****Course information****Course Title:** ECONOMICS OF GROWTH**Number of Units:** 3**Course ID:** Econ 560**Schedule Number:** 13367**Class Location:** HH 439**Class Schedule:**

- Lecture: Tuesdays, 19:00 – 21:45
- Midterm 1: Tuesday, February 28, in class
- Midterm 2: Tuesday, April 10, in class
- Final: Tuesday, May 15, 19:00 – 20:30, in class

**Instructor's information****Instructor:** Michael Bar**Office:** HSS 148**Email:** [mbar@sfsu.edu](mailto:mbar@sfsu.edu)**Course webpage:** <http://bss.sfsu.edu/mbar/ECON560.htm>**Office Phone Number:** 415-338-3026**Office hours:** T, TH, 16:00 – 17:00 or by appointment.**Course Description**

Why are some countries so rich and others so poor? Are there factors that we can point to that lead to these enormous gaps? Can we point to specific economic policies that affect prosperity? Are there specific country characteristics that determine economic fate? Is prosperity just the result of luck? These and other related questions are the concern of this course.

Our journey towards answering some of the above questions consists of three steps. The first step is to examine the data on growth experience of some countries and learn the facts about growth and development. The second step is to study economic theory that links factor accumulation and productivity to economic growth. In other words, we will learn the mechanics of economic growth, or what causes it. The final step in our journey is to investigate the *fundamental reasons* why countries differ in their factor accumulation and technology. We will explore such fundamentals as government policies, political regimes, cultural differences, natural resources, and more.

**Prerequisites**

Students must have passed Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 301), **and** Intermediate to Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 302), or their equivalents at other institutions, with grade of C- or better.

**Textbook**

Recommended textbook for this course is *Economic Growth*, by David Weil, Addison Wesley; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (March 10, 2008), ISBN-13: 978-0321416629

**Attendance**

Your attendance in class is absolutely essential. The material is cumulative, so if you miss one class, it is often impossible to understand the next one. Office hours are not to be used to teach material that was covered in a class to students who missed that class. If you must miss a class session, it is your responsibility to get a copy of the class notes from another student. I expect you to attend all classes and actively participate in the discussions.

**Homework Assignments**

- There will be 6 homework assignments. The assignments will be posted on the course web page at least one week before the due date.
- The due dates of the assignments are indicated in the course calendar below.
- Late homework is not accepted, but the lowest homework score is dropped.
- Assignment rules are written on the first page of each homework assignment. You are required to follow these rules.

**Grading**

Homework	20%
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Final exam	30%

**Grading Scale**

92%-100%	A
90%-91%	A-
88%-89%	B+
82%-87%	B
80%-81%	B-
78%-79%	C+
72%-77%	C
70%-71%	C-
68%-69%	D+
60%-67%	D
0-59%	F

**Tentative course calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Homework</b>
01/24	Introduction, Factor accumulation: Physical Capital, Population, Human Capital	Ch. 1 – 6	
<b>01/31</b>			<b>HW1 due</b>
02/07			
02/14			
<b>02/21</b>			<b>HW2 due</b>
<b>02/28</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b>		
03/06	Productivity: Productivity Measurement, Technology, Efficiency, Growth in the Open Economy	Ch. 7 – 11	
<b>03/13</b>			<b>HW 3 due</b>
03/27			
<b>04/03</b>			<b>HW 4 due</b>
<b>04/10</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b>		
04/17	Fundamentals: Government, Income Inequality, Culture, Geography and Climate, Natural Resources, Environment.	Ch. 12 – 16	
<b>04/24</b>			<b>HW 5due</b>
05/01			
<b>05/08</b>			<b>HW 6 due</b>
<b>05/15</b>	<b>Final</b>		

**School theme**

“Making a Difference in a Diverse Society: Leadership for a New Millennium”.

**Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism**

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one’s grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term ‘cheating’ not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an un-earned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one’s own work. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from 0 or F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to expulsion from the university. For more information on the University’s policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog (‘Policies and Regulations’). **In this class, copying and pasting parts of my notes into your homework assignments is considered by me as cheating and will result in a grade of “0” for the assignment.**

**Statement on Services for Students with Disabilities**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations:** The University is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities. The Disability Programs and Resources Center provides university academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. Individuals with physical, perceptual, or learning disabilities as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Services for Students with Disabilities for information regarding accommodations. Please notify your instructor so that reasonable effort can be made to accommodate you. If you expect Accommodation through the Act, you must make a formal request through Disability Programs & Resources Center in SSB 110, Telephone 338-2472.

**Statement on Disruptive Classroom Behavior**

The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process, and to develop and understanding of the community in which they live. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**Syllabus is Subject to Change**

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.