

**African Economic Development
Lecture (075 030) and Seminar (075 031)
Winter Term 2022/23**

Course Description

This course aims to increase the capacity of students to use their knowledge of economic theory and development economics in rigorous analysis of a subset of the critical issues facing policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa. The focus is on both microeconomic and macroeconomic issues in Africa. *African Economic Development*, consisting of a lecture (incl. a tutorial) and a seminar, intends to explain the reasons for the continued widespread poverty throughout the continent. The heterogeneity of African economies is stressed, and students are expected to focus their written work (i.e., the seminar paper) on particular countries and issues. The course also emphasises the importance of a detailed grasp of economic history to critically assess generalised debates on the determinants of recent economic performance.

Enrolment

Enrolment is open to Master students only. While we recommend that students enrol in both the lecture and seminar, you may prefer to only enrol in the lecture. Participation in the seminar requires enrolment in the lecture too. Students may obtain five (ECTS) credit points each for both parts, the lecture and the seminar. Enrolment will be limited.

Prerequisites

While we highly recommend that you have taken some introductory courses in development economics and econometrics, either at the bachelor's or master's level, you may enrol in the lecture without previous coursework in these areas. Since enrolment will be limited, we give preference to students with a knowledge of development economics and econometrics in the lecture. To enrol in the seminar, you will need sufficient knowledge of econometrics (at least one econometrics course at the bachelor's or master's level).

A. Lecture

Topics Covered

Big picture: becoming familiar with African economic development
Economic growth
Geography, health and development
Human capital
Trade and foreign direct investment
Historical legacies of slavery and colonialism
Ethnic and linguistic divisions
Violence and conflicts
Institutions and Good Governance
Culture
Foreign aid

Class Times Lecture

Thursdays, 1.00-4.00 pm, GD 03/218, from 13 October to 8 December 2022.

Please note that the lecture starts at 1.00 pm (and not noon as indicated in the course catalogue). This course's enrolment will occur in the first session (13 October 2022). Students interested in this course have to show up on that day! There will be no pre-enrolment. All course components (lecture, tutorial, and seminar) will be face-to-face. We will not record any session.

Tutorial

There will be a tutorial for a brief introduction to the concepts of econometrics and a recap of the main issues of the lecture and the mandatory literature. Joana Sulaj is the teaching assistant in charge. Tutorial time: Tuesdays, 2-4 pm (GD 03/218), starting 18 October 2022.

Moodle

We will post all papers, slides and additional material in Moodle. The password for accessing Moodle can be obtained either in the introductory session or via the FSI Student Council (Fachschaftsinitiative) password distribution online list ("Passwortverteiler"): <https://www.fsi-wiwi.de/tools/passwortverteiler/>.

Exam and Grading

The final exam (90 minutes), which makes up 100% of the grade, will be on 8 December 2022 (1.00-2.30 pm). You may obtain bonus points in the tutorial (details to be announced in the tutorial).

Contact Person Lecture

Joana Sulaj (GD 03/329, e-mail joana.sulaj@rub.de) is the teaching assistant in charge and the contact person for all inquiries regarding the lecture and tutorial. Her office hours are by appointment only.

B. Seminar

Class Times

Thursday, 20 October 2022, at the end of the lecture, GD 03/218 (Introductory session and enrolment)

Friday, 21 October 2022, 12-4 pm, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)

Friday, 28 October 2022, 12-4 pm, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)

The tutorial on scientific methods is not compulsory but highly recommended for students that have not written any seminar paper before.

Thursdays, 12 January 2023 to 26 January 2023, 1.00-4.00 am, GD 03/218 (Presentation of papers)

Seminar Topics

1. The Resource Curse in Nigeria
2. Implementing Good Governance in Botswana
3. The Effects of Black Economic Empowerment Policies in South Africa
4. The Impact of Structural Adjustment Programs in Zambia
5. The Effects of Foreign Direct Investment in Ghana

Note that the effects/impact to be analysed should refer to economic issues. Students are expected to write their term paper in a group (max. two students). Each student/group will be responsible for writing a term paper (13-15 pages in length (including tables and figures), 2.5 cm margins top/bottom/left/right, 1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman 12 point font) and a presentation. If a group is not presenting their paper, they will act as a discussant on another paper (same topic). Papers are due on Monday, 9 January 2023, 9 am. Please submit the paper electronically via e-mail to Prof. Busse (one pdf file).

Grading: The term paper and your presentation each make up 50 % of the total grade. You may improve your grade by active class participation.

Contact Person Seminar: Prof. Busse (GD 03/325, e-mail matthias.busse@rub.de), Office Hours: by appointment only.