Instructor: Sangyoon Park  
Email: sangyoon@ust.hk  
Office: Academic Building, Room 2378  
Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4pm  
Lecture: Wednesday 9:00-11:50am at Room 5566

Teaching Assistant: Yabin Yin  
Email: yyinak@connect.ust.hk  
Office: Academic Building, Room 3001  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm

Course Description
This course covers the microeconomics of development, focusing on empirical applications. Topics include health, education, gender inequality, behavior, firms, agriculture, environment, and institutions. Lectures will concentrate on the rigorous application of empirical methods to examine important questions in development economics. Students will complete empirical exercises and present recent journal articles.

Course Materials
Textbooks: There is no required textbook for this course. However, you may consider the following as useful references:


In addition, there will be a reading list comprising of peer-reviewed papers in the literature. Students will be expected to have read the assigned papers prior to lectures. Most readings are available in electronic form on our course website in Canvas.

Course Learning Outcomes
1. Establish critical understanding of the development economics literature
2. Comprehend major empirical methodologies in development economics
3. Integrate academic research with real-world issues and applications
4. Effectively communicate research findings

Assessment Tasks/Evaluation Plan
Assessment will be determined by the following formula:
• Class attendance and participation: Class attendance is mandatory. You are responsible for all materials presented in lecture. Class participation (e.g., asking questions or answering questions) is also highly recommended.

• Referee report: A referee report should be 2-4 pages long, double spaced. A list of papers for the referee report will be circulated in class during the course of the semester. Some helpful guides on how to write a referee report are available here: https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.31.1.231. Referee report should be submitted through the course website on the due date (TBD) until 5pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. This is an individual assignment. Students should submit their own work.

• Paper presentation: In-class presentation and discussion of an assigned paper for approximately 30 minutes. You are to work in groups (group size determined based on class size). Presentations will be scheduled throughout the semester.

• Data analysis: There will be 3 take-home data analysis assignments in which you will be asked to conduct empirical analysis (i.e., replicating study results) using Stata or R. This is an individual assignment. Students should submit their own work.

• Research proposal: You have to develop an original research proposal that examines a real-world question related to topics in development economics. You are to work in groups (group size determined based on class size). You will submit an interim report by March 27th (5% of total grade), present your proposal in class on May 8th (15%) and submit a final manuscript during the final exam period (date TBD).

Academic Conduct
The University regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Also, please check the University Statement on academic integrity at https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-libraryacademic-integrity.

Other Policies
Please be considerate in class. This means turning off your cell phones (and all other potentially noisy devices) or set it to “silent mode”, limiting conversation to a minimum, and, if necessary, entering/leaving the classroom as quietly as possible. Not doing so creates a negative externality for your fellow students and will not be tolerated.
## Course Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Causal Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Income, Nutrition, and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Investment in Human Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Education Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Gender Inequality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Behavioral Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Firms and Productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Agriculture and Technology Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Environment and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>No class (labor day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Research Proposal Presentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading List
SOSC 5440: Economics of Development
Spring 2023/2024

Topic 1: Introduction and Causal Model


Topic 2: Income, Nutrition, and Health


Topic 3: Investment in Human Capital


Topic 4: Education Quality


*Tentative and subject to change. Further announcements on readings will be made in class.*


Topic 5: Gender Inequality


Topic 6: Behavioral Economics


Topic 7: Firms and Productivity


Topic 8: Agriculture and Technology Adoption


Topic 9: Environment


Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 114(39):10384–10389


Topic 10: Corruption


Topic 11: Institutions


Topic 12: Conflict


