Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

5,256: Development Economics (BVWL)

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s
(binding regulations see below)
Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)
Examination time: term time
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)
Examination time: term time
Decentral - Written examination (40%, 60 mins.)
Examination time: term time

Attached courses
Timetable – Language – Lecturer
5,256,1.00 Development Economics (BVWL) – Englisch – Gottlieb Charles

Course information

Course prerequisites
A knowledge of calculus and linear algebra is assumed. Having attended Macro III and a command of R is advantageous.

Learning objectives
This course is geared towards economists in the third year of their bachelor. This course teaches students both theoretical and empirical tools to answer development policy questions. The main questions covered in this course are 1) why are some countries poorer than others, and 2) which sectors are the bottlenecks to economic development in poor countries.

Course content
The introductory lecture introduces the concept of GDP per worker and its measurement across countries. The rest of the course is divided into two parts. In the first part we study the role of production factors in a world where there is a single output. We investigate to what extent physical and human capital account for productivity differences across nations. We discuss the success of such an approach when factors are taken as exogenous as well as when they are allowed to vary endogenously. In other words, how important are efficiency/technology differences per se across countries, and how do they feed back into capital accumulation via a number of channels. We also explore the idea of factor-specific technology. The second part then consists of a decomposition of the economy into different sectors. We are interested in understanding how specific sectors can disproportionately impact aggregate productivity. For this we first study the process of structural transformation across time and space before exploring two specific parts of the economy in turn: the agricultural and investment sectors.

Course structure
A typical 3h session is structured as follows: a 1.5 hour of lecture and 1.5 hour devoted to a mix of exercise solving, live coding, and student presentations.

Course literature
- The Elusive Quest for Growth, Easterly, MIT Press.
- Hall and Jones (1999), Why Do Some Countries Produce So Much More Output Per Worker Than Others?, Quarterly Journal of Economics
- Young (1994), Lessons from the East Asian NICS: A contrarian view, European Economic Review
- Gollin, Lagakos and Waugh (2014), The Agricultural Productivity Gap
- Lagakos and Waugh (2013), Selection, Agriculture, and Cross-Country Productivity Differences

Additional course information

The course will primarily be taught face-to-face. In case circumstances will change, the lecturer will inform about any changes by e-mail.

In the case of the President’s Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in AS2020, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The teaching will take place via zoom. Students will be informed on changes and course relevant material via Canvas.
- The presentation and live-coding sessions will take place on zoom, and be recorded.
- The final in-class decentral exam will be replaced by a take-home exam.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Presentation of an article from voxeu.org

Examination-aid rule
Presentations
In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

Supplementary aids
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Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Work on dataset from the World Bank using R

Examination-aid rule
Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else’s help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.
For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively.

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

**Examination aids**

**Examination languages**
Question language: English
Answer language: English

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### 3. Examination sub part (3/3)

**Examination time and form**
Decentral - Written examination (40%, 60 mins.)
Examination time: term time

**Remark**
In class exam in the last week.

**Examination-aid rule**
Extended Closed Book
The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

**Supplementary aids**
Closed-book exam.

**Examination languages**
Question language: English
Answer language: English

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**Examination content**
See syllabus on canvas

**Examination relevant literature**
See syllabus on canvas
Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 20 August 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 44 (Thursday, 29 October 2020).