

Reading Course & Tutorial

The Long Term Determinants of Economic Development

Institutions, Geography, Culture, Political Economy and all the Rest

Master (2nd year)

CONTENT

Why is North America wealthier than South America? Why is Africa the poorest continent in the world? Why is Northern Europe more prosperous than Southern and Eastern Europe? Is it because of culture? Is it religion? Geography? Is it that some countries have better institutions than others? And if yes, why do not all countries have good institutions?

This reading course reviews the empirical evidence on the debate about the long term determinants of economic development. Examples of the hypotheses reviewed are historical changes of institutions, colonialism, slavery, religion, culture, geography, ethnic diversity, artificial borders, or the resource curse.

In a tutorial, complementary material is presented and discussed.

A good command of econometrics is highly advisable since all the papers are empirical

TIME & LOCATION

Lecture: Wednesday, 4.15 - 5.45 pm, room 2330

Tutorial: Tuesday, 10.15 - 11.45 am, room 2330
There is no tutorial in the first week of the semester

EXAMINATION MODALITIES

Credit points: 4 or 6

Area of study: Economics Master: Economics & Politics
VWL-Master PO 2014: International and Development Economics
Empirical Economics

Examination: 4 ECTS: Exam
6 ECTS: Extended exam (also covering material of the tutorial)

Regular attendance and active participation and is required