Instructor
Dina Pomeranz
Email: dina.pomeranz@econ.uzh.ch
Office hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistants and Section Times
Miriam Venturini
Email: miriam.venturini@econ.uzh.ch
Kobbina Awuah
Email: kobbina.awuah@econ.uzh.ch
Office hours: Thursday 14:00-15:00, SOF J04/J06

Time and Location
Lecture: Tuesday 16:15-18:00, KOL-G-209
Exercise sections: Wednesday 16:15-18:00, KOL-F-121

Final Exam
Tuesday 16/06/2020, SOD-1-102

Course Description
This course has two primary objectives: First, it provides students with a solid overview of what we know about key topics of global development, such as the trends in poverty around the world, inequality, access to education and healthcare, international migration, world hunger and population growth. Second, it equips students with tools to critically assess statistical claims and analysis about these issues of global development, by providing an introduction to commonly used empirical methods. In other words: how to spot when someone lies with data? Students will have some opportunities to try out these methods themselves in a hands-on way.

Grading

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>Problem sets (best 6 out of 7)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>75%</td>
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Problem sets will be due on March 3rd, 9th, 30th, April 20th, 27th, May 11th, and May 25th. They need to be uploaded at 22:00 at the latest on OLAT drop box folder. The content of the problem sets will be discussed in the exercise sessions.

You can work in groups (of up to 4 students) but each student should submit the problem set separately. If you work in group, please mark the names of other group members on your problem set, which will facilitate the grading process.

The final exam will include questions concerning the required readings, the material in the slides, and the materials covered in problem sets.
Class Policies
Please be advised that the use of laptops, smartphones, etc. is not allowed during classes.

Printouts of lecture slides will be distributed in class. Completed slides will be posted online the day after the lecture.

Schedule and Topics (preliminary, subject to changes)

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Lectures</th>
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<td>18/02</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19/02</td>
<td>Global Poverty Measures I</td>
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<td>03/03</td>
<td>Global Poverty II &amp; Inequality I</td>
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<td>10/03</td>
<td>Inequality II &amp; Population Growth</td>
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<td>17/03</td>
<td>Health &amp; Introduction to Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>24/03</td>
<td>Introduction to Difference-in-Differences Analysis &amp; Perspective from Ghana on Development and Business in Africa</td>
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<td>31/03</td>
<td>Education &amp; Comparison of Impact Evaluation Methods</td>
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<td>07/04</td>
<td>Corruption, Democracy, Institutions</td>
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<td>Aid &amp; Impact Measurement</td>
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<td>28/04</td>
<td>Career Panel &amp; Climate Change</td>
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<td>Taxation</td>
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<td>Colonialism, Power and Political Economy of Development</td>
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<td>19/05</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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<td>26/05</td>
<td>Review Class</td>
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Reading List
In order to keep the course up-to-date, the reading list might be updated slightly throughout the semester based on the experience of the early classes and class interests. Changes to readings will come at the latest one week before the lecture they pertain to.

The required readings are in bold. It is recommended to read them before the class and they will be part of the materials covered in the exam. The other readings are optional for those who are interested in further learning.

At the beginning of the reading list there are also a few books for further reading that might be of interest to some of you and are very related to the course content.

Suggested Additional Books for Further Reading

On empirical methods:

On development economics

On effective altruism

Lecture 1, February 18th: Course Introduction

Lecture 2, February 19th: Global Poverty Measures I

- **Global Extreme Poverty** (Subsections: “Overview”; “Extreme poverty in the broader context of well-being”; “Historical poverty around the world”; “Historical poverty in today’s rich countries”; “The evolution of extreme poverty, country by country”; “Total population in extreme poverty, by world regions”; “How many poor people live in each country?”; “Who are the people living in extreme poverty?”; “Setting the International Poverty Line”; “What is the cost of ending extreme poverty”), Our World in Data. [https://ourworldindata.org/extreme-poverty](https://ourworldindata.org/extreme-poverty)
- **What Are PPP Adjustments and Why Do We Need Them?**, Our World in Data. [https://ourworldindata.org/what-are-ppps](https://ourworldindata.org/what-are-ppps)

Lecture 3, March 3rd: Global Poverty II & Inequality I

- **Global Economic Inequality** (In Section “The history of global economic inequality”, Subsections: “Global divergence followed by convergence”, “Global income inequality increased for 2 centuries and is now falling”, “The latest data on global inequality and a look into the future”, “Inequality within countries and inequality between countries”), Our World in Data. [https://ourworldindata.org/global-economic-inequality](https://ourworldindata.org/global-economic-inequality)
- **Income Inequality** (Subsections: “How unequal were preindustrial societies?”; “How has inequality in high-income countries evolved over the last century?”; “Inequality before or after taxes?”; “Inequality of disposable incomes over the long run”; “How are the incomes of the rich changing relative to the incomes of the poor?”; “High-income countries tend to have lower inequality”; “Latin America is the world region with the highest income inequality”; “Inequality in the US has been growing substantially in recent decades”; “Taxation and public spending reduce inequality”; “The Gini Coefficient”; “Pen's Parade”), Our World in Data. [https://ourworldindata.org/income-inequality](https://ourworldindata.org/income-inequality)
• *The Size of the Poverty Gap: Some Hints Regarding the Cost of Ending Extreme Poverty, Our World in Data.* https://ourworldindata.org/size-poverty-gap

Lecture 4, March 10th: Inequality II & Population Growth

• *"Life Expectancy” – What does this Actually Mean?, Our World in Data.* https://ourworldindata.org/life-expectancy-how-is-it-calculated-and-how-should-it-be-interpreted
• *When Will the World Reach 'Peak Child'?* (Subsections: “The last decades and the next decades”; “The link between education in the short-run and the size of the population in the long-run”; “The WC-IIASA projections: How investments in education matter for the global population in the 21st century”; “The four future scenarios for global education”; “The size and structure of the world population under different educational scenarios”; “Global demand for education: The population of school-age children”; “Africa is going to be crucial”; “”) *Our World in Data.* https://ourworldindata.org/peak-child
• *World Population Growth* (Subsections: "Two centuries of rapid global population growth will come to an end"; "World Population from 10,000 BCE to today"; “How long did it take for the world population to double?”; “Population growth by country”; “Population growth by world region”; “How has the world population growth rate changed?”; “Population growth rate by country and region”; “How development affects population growth”; “The past future of the global age structure”; “The Demographic Transition”; “Empirical evidence for the demographic transition”) *Our World in Data.* https://ourworldindata.org/world-population-growth
• *Our World in Data.* https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/child-mortality-vs-population-growth
Lecture 5, March 17th: Health & Introduction to Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)

Health

- **Child Mortality** (Sections: "Child mortality - where we are today" (only intro + subsection "Child mortality is an everyday tragedy of enormous scale that rarely makes the headlines"); "Mortality in the past – around half died as children" (all subsections included); "Child mortality around the world since 1800" (all subsections included); "Global picture of child mortality from 1800 until today" (all subsections included); "Child mortality and income level" (all subsections included)). [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/child-mortality)


- **Famines** (Section (all subsections included): “Famine across the world since 1860”), [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/famines)


- **Hunger and Undernourishment** (Sections (all subsections included): “Undernourishment”; “Childhood malnutrition”), [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/hunger-and-undernourishment)


RCT


Lecture 6, March 24th: Introduction to Difference-in-Differences Analysis & Perspective from Ghana on Development and Business in Africa

Difference-in-differences


Lecture 7, March 31st: Education & Comparison of Impact Evaluation Methods

- **Increasing Test Score Performance**, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab. Cambridge, MA. (article on OLAT)

Lecture 8, April 7th: Corruption, Democracy, Institutions

- **Corruption** (Introduction; Sub-sections from Section “Empirical View”: “Where is perceived corruption highest?”; “Where are people more likely to pay bribes to access public services?”; “How does petty corruption affect the income of the poor?”; “Where are firms more likely to be asked for bribes”), *Our World in Data*. [https://ourworldindata.org/corruption](https://ourworldindata.org/corruption)
- **Democracy** (Empirical View), *Our World in Data*. [https://ourworldindata.org/democracy](https://ourworldindata.org/democracy)
- **War and Peace** (Section “War and Peace after 1945”), *Our World in Data*. [https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace + old version on OLAT](https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace + old version on OLAT)
Lecture 9, April 21st: Aid & Impact Measurement


Lecture 10, April 28th: Climate Change


Lecture 11, May 5th: Taxation

- Taxation (Sub-sections: “Taxes started growing in early-industrialised countries after the First World War”; “In the process of development, middle income countries have increased tax revenues”; “How much tax revenue do countries collect today?”; “How have income tax revenues evolved around the world?”; “How is consumption taxed?”; “How has the taxation
of goods and services evolved around the world?”; “Rising GDP is associated with rising tax revenues”), Our World in Data. https://ourworldindata.org/taxation


Lecture 12, May 12th: Colonialism, Power and Political Economy of Development

- Colonialism, Our World in Data. (available on OLAT)
- Working in Emerging Markets: Opportunities and Blind Spots, Adhikari, Samik; Elorrieta Juan Ignacio and Dina Pomeranz. Technical Note. (available on OLAT)
Things to remember as you volunteer or conduct research in a developing country this summer, Opalo, K. Ochieng’ (2015). An Africanist Perspective, blog.  https://kenopalo.com/2015/06/07/things-to-remember-as-you-volunteer-or-conduct-research-in-a-developing-country-this-summer/


Lecture 13, May 19th: Migration

- Why Do Programmers Earn More in Houston Than Hyderabad? Evidence from Randomized