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

Teaching Assistant and Section Times
Luca Bagnato
Email: luca.bagnato@econ.uzh.ch
Office hours: Thursday 11:30-12:30, SOF E02

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 18/06/2019, KOL F-101

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>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Problem sets (best 6 out of 7)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>80%</td>
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Problem sets will be due on Mondays March 4th, 11th, April 1st, 15th, 29th, May 13th, and May 27th at 22:00 at the latest in Luca’s email. 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>19/02</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>26/02</td>
<td>Global Poverty Measures I</td>
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<td>05/03</td>
<td>Global Poverty II &amp; Inequality I</td>
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<td>12/03</td>
<td>Inequality II &amp; Population Growth</td>
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<td>19/03</td>
<td>Health &amp; Introduction to Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20/03</td>
<td>Introduction to Difference-in-Differences Analysis &amp; Perspective from Ghana on Development and Business in Africa</td>
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<td>02/04</td>
<td>Education &amp; Comparison of Impact Evaluation Methods</td>
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<td>Aid &amp; Impact Measurement</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>21/05</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28/05</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. Two sources of material that will appear frequently in the reading lists are chapters from the book “The Economics of Poverty: History, Measurement and Policy” (2016) and from the website www.ourworldindata.org.

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 19th: Course Introduction

Lecture 2, February 26th: 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
- **What Are PPP Adjustments and Why Do We Need Them?**, Our World in Data. https://ourworldindata.org/what-are-ppps

Lecture 3, March 5th: Global Poverty II & Inequality I

- **Global Economic Inequality** (Sections 1.1-1.4), Our World in Data. 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

Lecture 4, March 12th: 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

Lecture 5, March 19th: Health & Introduction to Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)

Health

  https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/publications/2012.08.30_Spring_Cleaning_0.pdf


• **Famines** (Section (all subsections included): “Long-run global view”), Our World in Data. 
  https://ourworldindata.org/famines

• **Free Malaria Bednets, Innovation for Poverty Actions.** 
  https://www.poverty-action.org/impact/free-malaria-bednets

• **Hunger and Undernourishment** (Sections (all subsections included): “Undernourishment over time, by world region”; “World map of the prevalence of undernourishment”; “Global number of individuals undernourished”; “Depth of the food deficit”; “Undernourishment of children”), Our World in Data. 
  https://ourworldindata.org/hunger-and-undernourishment

  https://academic.oup.com/qje/article/122/1/73/1924773

  https://doi.org/10.1162/qjec.2010.125.1.1

  https://www.ted.com/talks/esther_duflo_social_experiments_to_fight_poverty

  https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjq010

• **What Does a Famine Declaration Declare?**, Our World in Data. 
  https://ourworldindata.org/what-does-a-famine-declaration-declare


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**RCT**


  https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/0002828041302109

• **Introduction to Evaluation**, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab. Cambridge, MA. 

  https://www.ted.com/talks/esther_duflo_social_experiments_to_fight_poverty


Lecture 6, March 20th: Introduction to Difference-in-Differences Analysis & Perspective from Ghana on
Development and Business in Africa

Difference-in-differences


Lecture 7, April 2nd: Education & Comparison of Impact Evaluation Methods

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

Lecture 8, April 9th: Corruption, Democracy, Institutions

- Corruption (Section I; Sub-sections from Section II: “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
- Democracy (Section I), Our World in Data. https://ourworldindata.org/democracy
- War and Peace (Section I.5, I.6, I.7), Our World in Data. https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace

Lecture 10, April 30th: Aid & Impact Measurement

- Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee on «Using Testing to Combat Poverty», SRF Sternstunde
Philosophie. Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w07K3l8V9YO


Lecture 11, May 7th: 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
Climate Change

- **Economists’ Statement on Carbon Dividends (2019), Climate Leadership Council**
  
  [https://www.clcouncil.org/economists-statement/](https://www.clcouncil.org/economists-statement/)

- **CO₂ and other Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Our World in Data**
  
  [https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions](https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions)

- **http://www.eaere.org/statement/**
  
  [https://www.econstatement.org/](https://www.econstatement.org/)

- **https://twitter.com/DinaPomeranz/status/1155227238465441793?s=19 → FOR CLASS**

Lecture 12, May 14th: Colonialism, Power and Political Economy of Development

- **Colonialism, Our World in Data. (available on OLAT)**
  
  [Colonialism, Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/colonialism)

- **Commitment to Development Index 2018, Mitchell, Ian; Käppeli, Anita; Robinson, Lee; McKee, Caitlin and Arthur Baker (2018). Center for Global Development.**
  

  
  [https://voxeu.org/article/understanding-long-run-effects-africa-s-slave-trades](https://voxeu.org/article/understanding-long-run-effects-africa-s-slave-trades)

- **Working in Emerging Markets: Opportunities and Blind Spots, Adhikari, Samik; Etorrieta Juan Ignacio and Dina Pomeranz. Technical Note. (available on OLAT)**

- **Colonial Switzerland: Rethinking colonialism from the margins, Purtschert, Patricia, and Harald Fischer-Tiné (2015). Springer.**

- **Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World - and Why Things Are Better than You Think (Chapters 6, 8), Rosling, Hans, Rosling, Ola and Anna Rosling Rönnlund (2018). Flatiron Books, New York.**

- **Stranger in the Village, Baldwin, James (1955). Notes of a Native Son, 175.**
  

  

- **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/](https://kenopalo.com/2015/06/07/things-to-remember-as-you-volunteer-or-conduct-research-in-a-developing-country-this-summer/)

Lecture 13, May 21st: Migration

- **Changing Patterns of Global Migration and Remittances. Chapter 1: Overview, Connor, Phillip, Cohn, D’Vera and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera (2013). Social Trends, Pew Research Center.**
  

- **International migration: Key findings from the U.S., Europe and the world, Connor, Phillip (2016). Fact Tank, Pew Research Center.**
  
  [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/15/international-migration-key-findings-from-the-u-s-europe-and-the-world/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/15/international-migration-key-findings-from-the-u-s-europe-and-the-world/)

- **Think Development in Poor Countries Will Reduce Migration? The Numbers Say Otherwise, Clemens, Michael (2014). Center for Global Development.**
  

  
https://www.cgdev.org/blog/trillion-dollar-bills-sidewalk-why-don’t-more-economists-study-emigration