



**National Taiwan University of Science and Technology**

**2021 Winter Program**

**ECON 331 Economic Growth in A Historical Perspective**

**Course Outline**

**Course Code: ECON 331**

**Instructor: George Sarraf**

**Home Institution: University of California, Irvine**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Email: [gsarraf@uci.edu](mailto:gsarraf@uci.edu)**

**Credit: 4**

**Course Description:**

This course attempts to provide economic explanations for why some countries have been able to become rich, while others remain poor. The course will lay the foundations and introduce the latest theoretical tools, data, and insights attempting to explaining growth. The course will draw on real life experience from the past as well as modern time.

**Required Textbooks:**

Textbook: David N. Weil, Economic Growth, 3rd ed., Routledge. ISBN: 978-0321795731.

**Lectures:**

Lectures are designed to clearly explain the concepts covered in the handouts and how they apply to real world situations. Lectures will be asynchronous and pre-recorded and posted online (LMS) or emailed to the class. Outlines of the lecture notes will be made available to students online or via emails.



**Homework:**

Homework assignments will be posted online or emailed to students. Homework assignments are meant to help you prepare (along with other materials) for the exams.

**Exams:**

There will be one midterm, and a final. Exams will be open book. Students can also use their own notes to answer the exam questions. Practice exam questions will be posted online or emailed to students.

**Activities:**

There will be some activities to substitute for attending lectures. Short videos explaining important concepts covered in the class, will be posted online. Students to leave brief comments after watching those videos.

**Grading Breakdown:**

Homework: 20%  
 Activities: 20%  
 Midterm: 30%  
 Final: 30%

**Grading & Evaluation:**

A+:4.3	95-100	A:4.0	87-94	A-:3.7	82-86
B+:3.3	78-81	B:3.0	75-77	B-:2.7	71-74
C+:2.3	68-70	C:2.0	65-67	C-:1.7	61-64
D:1.0	55-60	E:0.0	49-54	X:0.0	0-48

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Topic	Chapters
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syllabus and introduction</li> <li>• Facts of economic growth</li> <li>• Thinking about growth</li> <li>• Physical capital</li> </ul>	Ch. 1 Ch. 2 Ch. 3



Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population and economic growth</li><li>• Human capital</li><li>• Productivity</li><li>• Role of technology in growth</li></ul>	Ch. 4 Ch. 6 Ch. 7 Ch. 8
Week 3	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	Chs: 2-4, 6, 7 & 8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Efficiency</li><li>• Growth in the open economy</li><li>• Government role in growth</li><li>•</li></ul>	Ch. 10 Ch. 11 Ch. 12
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income inequality</li><li>• Culture and economic growth</li><li>• Growth and the environment</li></ul>	Ch. 13 Ch. 14 Ch. 16
	<b>Final Exam</b>	Chs: 10-14 & 16