



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

2025 Winter Session

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: george.sarraf@gmail.com

Credit: 4

Class Hours:

This course will have 60 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions, 8-hour extra classes.

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 Course Materials:

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 on google drive 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. Pick a country with more recent economic growth and explain briefly how this country been able to achieve economic growth.

Grading Breakdown:

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

Grading System (1 ~ 100)

A+ : 96 - 100	A : 91 - 95
B+ : 86 - 90	B : 81 - 85
C+ : 76 - 80	C : 71 - 75
D+ : 66 - 70	D : 60 - 65
F : 0 - 59	
Pa : Pass	Fa : Fail

Course Schedule:

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



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

