

Fall 2006

ECON 4774-001: Economic Reform in Developing Countries

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Class Schedule: MWF 12:00 noon – 12:50 p.m. in ECON 119.

Office Hours: MW 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and by appointment.

Textbooks: The required textbook for this class is *Development Economics* by Debraj Ray (1998, Princeton University Press). In addition, for one of your assignments (more on which below), you will need to refer *In Search of Prosperity* edited by Dani Rodrik (2003, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press).

Course Objectives: The persistent disparities in incomes per capita across the world today pose one of the most important questions that confront economists. What are the fundamental determinants of sustained economic development? Thanks to a proliferation of reliable, cross-country data in the last two decades, economists have made important strides in helping to answer this question. Yet, the continuing failure of many countries to pull out of the ranks of the hopelessly poor is a testament to the amount of work that still needs to be done. While many determinants of sustained economic growth and progress are economy-wide (like the establishment of the rule of law, the security of property rights, sustained rates of technological progress and levels of investment etc.), many others stem from decisions made within the household (like how many children to have and how much to invest in each). In this class, we shall explore how and why some countries have succeeded and many others have failed (so far) in the pursuit of economic prosperity.

Assignments and Grading:

12/4

Country Case Studies

12/11

Country Case Studies