International Economic Growth and Development

Module Code: ECO00019H  Credits: 20  Year: 3  Terms: 2
Contact Hours: 18 one-hour Lectures, 4 one hour workshops, and 2 one hour Seminars (24 contact hours)
Module Organiser: Thilo Huning

Overview:
Understanding how and why economic growth and development has (or indeed has not) occurred is fundamental to our understanding of many contemporary issues in economics. To what extent can growth theory shed light on relative performance over time? How can development theories help us understand differences in performance? These are the overall issues addressed in this module. In particular several key questions are explored: Why has the Chinese economy grown so rapidly in the recent past? What is special about the recent performance of the Indian economy? What insights can we draw from the ‘miracle’ of the growth of the East Asian Tigers in the 1990’s? Why has Africa ‘failed’ to grow and develop? How did the transition from a planned to a market economy impact on the countries of the former Soviet Union? What is the productivity problem in Latin America? How do we explain the differential impact of the reform process in Latin America? Why are Mexico, Turkey, Indonesia and Nigeria identified as the MINT growth economies of the future? How viable was the identification of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS) as the key growth economies?

This module explores key themes in international economy, giving student an understanding of the crucial themes that impinge on the contemporary world for the individual economies and the international economy. It is an applied rather than a theory module. Theory is used to shed insights and suggest explanations but the emphasis throughout is on applied work. An important feature of the module is that students are introduced to, and expected to use, up to date qualitative and quantitative materials from a number of non-governmental organisation websites.

Aims:
The first part of the module will take ‘global issues’ on thematic basis. The first part of the module aims will be:

- To build on issues covered in the second year module, Development Economics, by an overview of key economic theories explaining relative economic growth over time to draw relevant insights from these theories and apply them to different parts of the world
- To consider the components of growth models: namely labour, capital and technological change and how separately and together they may explain growth – and lack of it in parts of the world
- To evaluate the importance and role of international agencies such as the IMF and World Bank in promoting economic growth and ensuring international economic growth and stability

The second and integral part of the module explores relative economic performance taking different parts of the world as case studies. The second part of the module aims:

- To consider the causes of the Chinese ‘economic miracle’.
- To consider the unique characteristics of India’s recent growth record.
To consider the constraints on economic growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa with particular reference to ‘geography’ and ‘institutional’ explanations.

To evaluate and explore differential performance of economies in South America – including the effects of reform processes and the economic effects of populism.

To explain differences in the performance of the Eastern European Transition economies since 1990.

To explore the determinants of the ‘East Asian miracle’ and subsequent slow down in growth

Objectives:
On completing the module, it is expected that students will have:

- A greater appreciation of the forces which determine relative economic growth over time
- A greater appreciation of how growth theory may yield important insights into our understanding of the performance of the Asian economies, the Transition economies, China, India and Sub-Saharan Africa
- A greater understanding of institutional constraints and property rights as determinants of relative long run growth
- Acquired experience of team based work in tutorial preparation work
- Acquired experience of power point presentations.

Background:
This module considers critical issues and themes in the contemporary international economy. To that extent, the lecture topics and tutorial themes have changed over the years – often in response to student requests and interests. Because of its contemporary nature, it follows that it is imperative that you keep up to date with key websites such as the World Bank and the IMF – journal articles are important but they will not yield up to date information. This is what makes the module interesting and different. It is not however a module which can be ‘done’ by reference to a single textbook. For that reason, references will be provided and updated on an on-going basis on the virtual learning environment (vle). It is therefore important that you check the vle for this module on a regular basis.

Assessment:
This module is assessed by one 3-hour unseen examination taken in the Summer Term (100 per cent of the mark).

Main References: