Carl von Ossietzky
Universität
Oldenburg

Economic Growth

Summer term 2025

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bitzer

Course meeting time and place:

Lecture: Tuesday 10.15-11.45 o'clock in room A14 1-112.
Starts: 8th April 2025, ends: 8th July 2025.

Seminar (block course): Discussion of topics and date: Tuesday, 8th April 2025, during the first lecture.

Content of the module:

The module consists of a lecture and a seminar. "Why are we so rich and they so poor?" In the module the theoretical models, the empirical evidence and the strategies applied or discussed by politics to reach sustainable economic growth are introduced and discussed.

Structure of the course and prerequisites

The lecture is mainly devoted to the basic theories of economic growth and follows largely the book of Charles Jones (2024) in which they are presented. In the seminar the empirical findings on a broad range of determinants of economic growth are discussed. Each student has to present an essay on one topic. The topics are distributed during the first lecture. They can be found below. The course deals with theoretical models, which requires a basic knowledge of mathematics and econometrics.

Grading

The grade of the course is based on a portfolio exam. This consists of three parts: An essay (30%), a short presentation (30%) and a short test (40%). Each mark of these three parts add to the final mark, with the share given in the parentheses. Please note that you have to pass each part of the portfolio to pass the course!

Literature

Jones, Charles I. and Dietrich Vollrath (2024): Introduction to Economic Growth. Fourth Edition. W. W. Norton, New York/London.

Further literature on economic growth

Acemoglu, Daron (2009): Introduction to Modern Economic Growth. Princeton University Press: Princeton.

Aghion, Philippe, and Peter W. Howitt (1998): Endogenous Growth Theory. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Barro, Robert J., Xavier Sala I. Martin (2004): Economic Growth: Second Edition. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Easterly, William (2006): The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done so Much Ill and so Little Good. Oxford University Press.

Landes, David S. (1999): The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor. W. W. Norton, New York/London.

Helpman, Elhanan (2010): The Mystery of Economic Growth. Belknap Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Warsh, David (2006): Knowledge and the Wealth of Nations: A Story of Economic Discovery. Norton, New York, N.Y.

Weil, David N. (2013): Economic Growth. Third revised edition. Pearson/Addison Wesley, Boston et al.

Literature on the mathematical background

Chiang, Alpha C. and Kevin Wainwright (2005): Fundamental Methods of Mathematical Economics, 4th edition, McGraw-Hill: New York.

Sydsaeter, Knut and Peter Hammond (2016): Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis, 5th revised edition, Prentice Hall: Harlow.

Sydsaeter, Knut, Peter Hammond, Atle Seierstand und Arne Strøm (2008): Further Mathematics for Economic Analysis, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall: Harlow.

Tietze, Jürgen (2013): Einführung in die angewandte Wirtschaftsmathematik, 17. Auflage, Springer Spektrum.

Possible topics for the essays:

1. Economic Growth and Foreign Aid
2. Determinants of Foreign Aid
3. Distribution of Foreign Aid
4. Economic Growth and Human Capital
5. Economic Growth and Birth Control
6. Economic Growth and Public Dept
7. Economic Growth and Corruption
8. Economic Growth and Culture
9. Economic Growth and Ethnic Diversity
10. Economic Growth and Ecological Devastation
11. Economic Growth and Domestic Income Distribution
12. Economic Growth and Global Income Distribution
13. Economic Growth and Poverty
14. Green Growth
15. Economic Growth and Subjective Wellbeing
16. Economic Growth and Demography
17. Economic Growth and Sustainability

18. Growth and Institutions

19. Economic Growth and Democracy

20. Postwachstumsökonomie

21. Economic Growth and Climate Change

22. The East Asian Growth Miracle

I am open to proposals of further topics.