

Development economics and environmental sustainability

Semester:	Spring semester 2025
Root Number:	455489
ECTS:	3
Lecturers:	Patrick Tomberger and Jesús Crespo Cuaresma
Dates:	February 20, 21 and February 27 and 28, 2025

Audience:

- Master of Advanced Studies of International Law and Economics (MILE) Students – Compulsory
- Joint LL.M. / Diploma of Advanced Studies Trade and Investment Law (TRAIL+) Students - World Trade Institute / Faculty of Law, Unibe – Optional

Course description:

In this course, the students will receive a general introduction into development economics and environmental sustainability. The first part of the course will focus on specific topics in environmental economics and its linkages with economic development. The second part will focus on economic development and growth theories and link them to contemporary issues in development.

The topics we are going to cover include:

1. Economic Development
 - Cross-country income differences
 - Economic growth models
 - Human capital and technology
 - Growth and globalization
2. Development and environmental sustainability
 - Foundations in environmental economics
 - Policy instruments to internalize environmental externalities
 - The economics of climate change
 - Topics on trade and the environment

Grading will be based on short essays prepared by groups of students related to the topics discussed in class. Active participation in the course is required and the students are required to prepare the material discussed in the lectures in advance. For this, the required literature as well as the slides discussed in the lectures will be made available in a Google drive.

Lecturers

Patrick Tomberger

Patrick Tomberger is a post-doc researcher at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Before he joined the University of Innsbruck, he worked from 2010 to 2015 as a pre-doc researcher at the University of Linz, Austria. After he obtained his PhD in Economics he moved as pre-doc researcher to the World Trade Institute located in Bern, Switzerland, and stayed there until 2022. He also holds Master degrees in Political Economy and Political Science from the University of Innsbruck. During his career, Patrick also worked as consultant for the World Bank and has been part of projects funded by the European Union and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). His main research interests are international trade, global value chains, input-output analysis and environmental economics. In those fields, he published in international peer-reviewed journals such as Applied Economics, Empirical Economics, The World Economy, Ecological Economics, Economics Letters and Environmental and Resource Economics.

Jesús Crespo Cuaresma

Jesús Crespo Cuaresma is Professor of Economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), as well as Director of Economic Analysis at the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (WIC) and Research Scholar at the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). His research interests are in the fields of applied econometrics, macroeconomics, economic growth, human capital and economic policy. He has published extensively in renowned scientific journals such as Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Nature Communications, Nature Climate Change, Demography, European Economic Review or Journal of Applied Econometrics, just to name a few.

Learning objectives

Over the duration of the course, students will be introduced to and gain an understanding of a range of concepts, theories, and issues in development economics, environmental economics and trade policy, which they will be able to critically analyse and discuss.

Exam and Grades:

Patrick Tomberger (environment): take home assignment 50%. Instructions will be provided on Friday, February 21. The final projects are to be sent to masters.wti@unibe.ch by March 07, 2025 at 23:59 CET.

Jesús Crespo Cuaresma (economic development) take home assessment 50%. Instructions will be provided on Friday February 28. Papers should be sent to masters.wti@unibe.ch by March 14, 2025 at 23h59 (CET).

Course Overview

Class	Date	Day	Time	Hours	Topic	Lecturer
1	20.02.2025	Thursday	09:00-12:00	3	Primer in env. Economics	Patrick Tomberger
			13:00-17:00	4	The economics of climate change	Patrick Tomberger
2	21.02.2025	Friday	09:00-12:00	3	Trade and the environment	Patrick Tomberger
3	27.02.2025	Thursday	09:00-12:00	3	History and concepts of economic development	Jesús Crespo Cuaresma
			14:00-16:00	3	Economic growth models	Jesús Crespo Cuaresma
4	28.02.2025	Friday	09:00 -13:00	4	Growth determinants and poverty	Jesús Crespo Cuaresma