

# Introduction to economic growth, EKN 325

Department of Economics, University of Pretoria  
Spring, 2017

## 1 General information

- Level: this is a graduate (3<sup>rd</sup>-year) course in economics which requires knowledge of quantitative methods (maths and stats) and economics (micro and macroeconomics).
- Instructor(s) and support: Dr. Manoel Bittencourt (manoel.bittencourt@up.ac.za) is the convenor, Dr. Carolyn Chisadza (Carolyn.Chisadza@up.ac.za) is the instructor and Ms. Lelani Coetzee (u13085914@tuks.co.za) is the teaching assistant. Administrative support is provided by Ms. Louise Cromhout (Louise.Cromhout@up.ac.za).
- Office and consultation hours: Dr. Bittencourt, Tukkieurf 2-6, by appointment, Dr. Carolyn Chisadza, Tukkieurf 1-28, Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 and Ms. Lelani Coetzee, Tukkieurf 2-32, Mondays 12:30-13:30 and Wednesdays 13:30-14:30.
- Timetable and venues: Mondays 10:30-11:20, HB 4-9, Wednesdays 15:30-16:20, Centenary 1 and Fridays 12:30-13:20, Centenary 3.

## 2 Description of the course

The material is delivered by lectures where the students are introduced to the basic contents of the course and by tutorials where the students are introduced to the Penn World Table and the Gapminder.

The course provides an introduction to economic growth and to topics on development economics. Firstly we cover some historical facts and then the Solow growth model and its empirical applications (human capital and convergence). Secondly we cover the new growth theory (the Romer model of endogenous growth). Lastly, we cover technology transfer, social infrastructure, population and natural resources.

## 3 Assessment

The students are assessed by an empirical project (30% of the final mark) and by a final exam paper (70% of the final mark). The deadline for the project is October 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 (projects are to be either emailed to ekn.325@gmail.com or handed in to Ms Louise Cromhout at the reception in Tukkieurf). The final exam takes place on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 08:00-11:00 in TBA and perusal takes place TBA in TBA.

## 4 Syllabus and references by topic

The required textbook is "Introduction to Economic Growth" by Charles Jones and Dietrich Vollrath. In addition, my website, [manoelbittencourt.weebly.com](http://manoelbittencourt.weebly.com), contains the materials (general information and notes) and relevant links.

### 4.1 The facts of growth

#### References

- [1] Helpman, Elhanan. 2004. The Mystery of Economic Growth. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: Harvard University Press. [338.9 HELPMAN]
- [2] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. Introduction to Economic Growth. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

### 4.2 The Solow model

#### References

- [1] Easterly, William. 2002. The Elusive Quest for Growth. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The MIT Press. [338.9 EASTERLY]
- [2] Helpman, Elhanan. 2004. The Mystery of Economic Growth. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: Harvard University Press. [338.9 HELPMAN]
- [3] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. Introduction to Economic Growth. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

### 4.3 Empirical applications: human capital and convergence

#### References

- [1] Easterly, William. 2002. The Elusive Quest for Growth. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The MIT Press. [338.9 EASTERLY]
- [2] Helpman, Elhanan. 2004. The Mystery of Economic Growth. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: Harvard University Press. [338.9 HELPMAN]
- [3] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. Introduction to Economic Growth. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

## **4.4 Endogenous growth**

### **References**

- [1] Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The MIT Press. [338.9 EASTERLY]
- [2] Helpman, Elhanan. 2004. *The Mystery of Economic Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: Harvard University Press. [338.9 HELPMAN]
- [3] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. *Introduction to Economic Growth*. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

## **4.5 A model of growth and development: human capital and technology transfer**

### **References**

- [1] Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The MIT Press. [338.9 EASTERLY]
- [2] Helpman, Elhanan. 2004. *The Mystery of Economic Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: Harvard University Press. [338.9 HELPMAN]
- [3] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. *Introduction to Economic Growth*. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

## **4.6 Social infrastructure and economic performance**

### **References**

- [1] Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The MIT Press. [338.9 EASTERLY]
- [2] Helpman, Elhanan. 2004. *The Mystery of Economic Growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: Harvard University Press. [338.9 HELPMAN]
- [3] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. *Introduction to Economic Growth*. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

## **4.7 Population and the origin of economic growth**

### **References**

- [1] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. *Introduction to Economic Growth*. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

## **4.8 Natural resources**

### **References**

- [1] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. Introduction to Economic Growth. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]

## **4.9 Conclusion: understanding economic growth**

### **References**

- [1] Jones, Charles and Vollrath, Dietrich. 2013. Introduction to Economic Growth. New York, W.W. Norton. [338.9 JONES]