

# ECON 712 (2022): Economic Growth

*Topics Covered:* This mini course will focus on the implications of technological progress for the market and home sectors. The course will cover current research on this topic. It will also allow PhD students at various stages to present their own research in this area. The first lecture is on how efficiency in financial markets impacts economic development. The second lecture turns to the effect of venture capital on the economy. There is also a [podcast \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for the second lecture. The third lecture turns to technological progress in the household and its implications for marriage and divorce. This lecture is a bit out of order but provides some necessary background for Jordan's and Lucy's talk. Digital advertising is the subject of the fourth lecture. The fifth lecture (split into two parts on both on Monday and Wednesday the week of April 11th) discusses the current opioid crisis. The sixth lecture talks about how the ability to trade ideas via the patent market affects the economy. The last lecture focuses on two subjects: how technological progress in the home influenced married female labor-force participation and the implications of technological advance in contraception for marriage and premarital sex.

All papers are in the Files folder. You are expected to read them (there are not many), and not just rely on the lecture notes. You should get into the nitty gritty of each paper. For the theory, think about the logic from first principals. Why was the theory done in this way? Could the applied analysis confront different aspects of the data? Could other counterfactual experiments be entertained? Finally, and most importantly, what ideas come to mind for future research in this area? The book *Evolving Households: The Imprint of Technology on Life* discusses, in a more intuitive manner than the papers, how technological progress has affected the household. It is better in some ways than the papers, since it shows how many ideas can be set up very simply. It is worse in other ways, because the techniques used are not state of the art. Remember though that having an idea that you can work on is the most important thing.

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/evolving-households>

*Your Classmates' Talks:* Additionally, there will be 4 short talks in the regularly scheduled class time. This will give you the opportunity to see, in an informal setting, work in progress by your classmates. This is a good time to practice speaking up in seminars. You will be expected to return an annotated pdf file of the slides for each of these four lectures, which I will hand over to the presenter. Your comments should be constructive in nature--do **not** summarize their research. Some day it will be your turn to present your own research. At that time hopefully you will receive comments from your classmates that will allow you to improve your work/presentation. Often you can learn as much from your classmates as you can from faculty.

*Grading:* Regarding grading, after each lecture I will expect each of you to send me a two to three page synopsis of the lecture for each class (a strict **maximum** of 4 pages)--use a 12 pt font and 1.5 line spacing. The first half of synopsis should present what you think are the main ideas of the lecture. The second half of the synopsis should present any ideas you have about moving such an analysis forward. That is, in the second half you should move beyond the lecture. You can email me your synopsis for each lecture to: [williamplayfair@jeremygreenwood.net](mailto:williamplayfair@jeremygreenwood.net). All write ups are due the Sunday immediately following the posted lecture date. For the student talks, you should submit an annotated pdf file with constructive comments as discussed above.

Pdf's for the lectures and papers are placed in the Files folder. Feel free to post questions on the Discussion board as well as to answer the questions by your classmates. I will look at the posts as well.

## Course Summary:

Date	Details
Mon Mar 14, 2022	<a href="#">Financing Development--gsw10</a>
	<a href="#">Quantifying the Impact of Financial Development on Economic Development--gsw13</a>
Mon Mar 21, 2022	<a href="#">Financing Ventures--ghs</a>
	<a href="https://www.frbatlanta.org/podcasts/transcripts/economy-matters/191119-venture-capital-and-firm-growth">Podcast: https://www.frbatlanta.org/podcasts/transcripts/economy-matters/191119-venture-capital-and-firm-growth</a>
	<a href="#">Synergizing Ventures--adgp</a>
Mon Mar 28, 2022	<a href="#">Ricardo Marto, "Structural Change or Declining Competition?"</a>
	<a href="#">Evolving Households: Chp3</a>
Mon Mar 28, 2022	<a href="#">Technology and the Changing Family--ggks16</a>
	<a href="#">Jordan Peebles and Lucy Disch, "The U.S. Education Divorce Gap: Have Adverse Labor Market Conditions Made Men Less Attractive?"</a>

**Date****Details**

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Mon Apr 4,  
2022

['You Will:' An Macroeconomic Analysis of Digital Advertising--gmy](#)

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[Yoshiki Ando, "The role of venture capitalists in the macroeconomy."](#)

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Mon Apr 11,  
2022

[Yueyuan Ma, "Venture Funded Entrepreneurship: the Impact on Wealth Inequality and Mobility."](#)

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Wed Apr 13,  
2022

[Karen Kopecky, "The Downward Spiral."](#)

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Mon Apr 18,  
2022

[Buy, Keep or Sell: Economic Growth and the Market for Ideas--acg16](#)

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[Evolving Households: Chps 1 and 4](#)

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Mon Apr 25,  
2022

[Engines of Liberation--gsy05](#)

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[The Wife's Protector: A Quantitative Theory Linking Contraceptive Technology with the Decline in Marriage--gk](#)

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