



ECON 3509A
Development Planning and Project Evaluation
Winter 2025
Economics Department

Instructor: Dr. Samuel Bonti-Ankomah

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(please use the Brightspace e-mail facility for all course-related electronic communication)

Office Location: LOEB 824A

Course Location/Delivery: Log into Carleton Central for location (in-Person)

Course Day and Time: Wednesdays, 6:05 pm- 8:55 pm

Teaching Assistant: Vamuyan Sesay

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Office Location: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Brightspace Course Page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/208431>

1. Course Description

The course will provide students some understanding of the basic principles of development planning and introduce students to the tools used in economic evaluation of development projects. It provides an analytical and practical approach to financial and economic project evaluation that looks at projects from the perspective of governments or development agencies. The course covers general economic principles that are used for evaluating the social benefits and costs of projects. It includes approaches to valuing market and non-market benefits and costs and analysis of uncertainty.

2. Preclusions and Prerequisites

Prerequisite: ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003.

Students who believe they have taken similar background course or courses from another university must provide appropriate documentation to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Renee Lortie.

3. Learning Outcomes

After successful conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the key steps involved in a standard cost-benefit analysis;
- Explain the economic principle that guides cost-benefit analysis;
- Identify all relevant costs and benefits of a particular project/policy/ regulation;
- Properly classify all relevant benefits and costs of a project/policy/regulation;
- Understand how to attach a dollar value to benefits and costs;
- Evaluate the role of non-market benefits and costs in a CBA;
- Understand the importance of the discount rate in CBA;
- Conduct a basis cost-benefit analysis.

4. Texts and Course Materials

Title	Author(s)	ISBN
Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practices, 5th ed, 2018, Cambridge University Press (Required)	Boardman, A.E., Greenberg, D.H., Vining, A.R., and Weimer, D.L.	978-1-108-40129-6 978-1-108-41599-6
Benefit-Cost Analysis: Financial and Economic Appraisal Using Spreadsheets, 2003, Cambridge University Press, New York	Campbell, Harry, F. and Brown, Richard, P.C.	13-9780521528986
Economic Analysis of Investment Operations: Analytical Tools and Practical Applications, World Bank Institute, Washington, D.C.	Pedro Belli, Jock R. Anderson, Howard N. Barnum, John A. Dixon, and Jee-Peng Tan, 2001.,.	0-8213-4850-7
Economic Development, 13 th ed. 2020, Pearson, Harlow, UK.	Todaro, Michael and Smith, Stephen, C.	978-1292291154
Principles of Cost-Benefit Analysis in a Canadian Context, Prentice Hall.	Townley, P	978-0136367130

Benefit-Cost Analysis in Theory and Practice, 1994, Harper Collins College Publishers	Zerbe, R. and Dively, D.	9780673180667
United Nations Development Program, 2024.	Human Development Report 2023-2024, Breaking the Gridlock https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2023-24	
United Nations Development Program, 2024.	Human Development Report: 2023-2024 Technical Notes, https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2023-24_HDR/hdr2023-24_technical_notes.pdf	
World Bank	Operations Evaluation Department (OED) sub-site: www.worldbank.org/oed	
Inter-American Development Bank	www.iadb.org	
Asian Development Bank	www.adb.org	
African Development Bank	www.afdb.org	
Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada, 2022	<i>Canadian Cost Benefit Analysis Guide for Regulatory Proposals: Canada's Cost-Benefit Analysis Guide for Regulatory Proposals - Canada.ca</i>	
Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada, 2007	<i>Assessing, Selecting and Implementing Instruments for Government Action: Assessing, Selecting, and Implementing Instruments for Government Action - Canada.ca</i>	

A greater part of the course material will come from the **required** course textbook, “Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practices, 5th ed. 2018”. Students can purchase the electronic version of the textbook and related materials via the textbook publisher’s **website for about \$95** (subject to change). Hardcopies of the **required** course textbook, if desired, can also be purchased via the University bookstore.

5. Course Calendar

PART 1: Basic Principles of Development Planning- January 8 & 15

- Basic Concepts of development planning (Dale, Chapter 1, 4 & 5; Todaro et al, Chapter 11; UNDP Human Development 2020 Statistical Update and Technical Report)

PART 2: Economic Foundations of project evaluation – January 22

- Efficiency, and project evaluation – [Boardman, et al, Chap. 2 (pp. 28-30)]
- Willingness to pay and opportunity cost [Boardman et al, Chap. 2 (pp. 31-41)]
- Consumer and producer surplus – [Boardman et al, Chap. 3 (pp. 55-75)]
- Market Distortions and project evaluation– [Belli et al, Appendix 1A (pp.199-213)]

Quiz – January 29

PART 3: Cost Benefit Analysis – A tool for Project Evaluation – January 29

- What is Cost Benefit Analysis? [Boardman, Chap. 1 (pp. 1-2)]
- Private versus social Cost Benefit Analysis [Boardman, Chap. 1 (pp. 1-2)]
- Key Steps in Cost Benefit Analysis [Boardman, Chap. 1 (pp. 4-15)]
- Why Cost benefit Analysis? [Boardman, Chap. 1 (pp. 21-23)]

PART 4: Identification and Valuation of Costs and Benefits – February 5 & 12

- Identifying cost and benefits [Belli, Chap. 4]
- Valuing Benefits and Cost [Boardman, Chap. 4, 5 & 6]

Winter Break- February 17-21

Mid-term exam- February 26

PART 5: Monetising Costs and Benefits – March 5 & 12

- Market Approaches (Belli, Chap. 5; Campbell and Brown, Chap. 8; Townley, Chap. 6)
- Non-market/Indirect Market approaches (Boardman, Chap. 15 & 16; Belli, Chap. 4; Campbell and Brown, Chap. 12; Townley, Chap. 9)

PART 6: Decision Criteria for Cost Benefit Analysis – March 19 & 26

- Cost Benefit Analysis Criteria (Belli, Technical Appendix (pp.217-222); Campbell and Brown, Chap. 3; Zerbe and Dively, Chap. 9)
- Discounting [Boardman, Chap. 9]
- Cost Effectiveness [Boardman, Chap. 18; Belli, Chap. 7]

Group Assignment submission due date– March 26

PART 7: Dealing with Risks and Uncertainties – April 2

- Risks and Uncertainty (Zerbe and Dively, Chap. 12)
- Analysing uncertainty (Boardman, Chap. 11; Belli, Chap. 11; Zerbe and Dively, Chap. 12; Campbell and Brown, Chap. 9)

Note: The foregoing is a tentative list of contents. There may be changes due to questions and interests of students.

6. Evaluation

<u>Assignment/Test</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mode of Delivery</u>	<u>Percentage of Grade</u>
<u>Quiz</u>	<u>January 29</u>	<u>Brightspace</u>	<u>15</u>
Mid-term Exam	February 26	In-Person	25
Group Assignment	March 25	Brightspace	30
Final Exam	April 11-26	In-person	30

Quiz Policy

The quiz will have 15 multiple choice questions and will take 20 minutes to complete. It will be done on-line through Brightspace outside the regular class period and will cover materials discussed in class before January 29.

If you are absent for the quiz, email me as soon as possible within a few days to reschedule. I reserve the right to request a Self-Declaration form or PMC letter of accommodation depending on the length of incapacitation.

Midterm Policy

The mid-term exam will be in-person in the lecture room and will have a duration of 90 minutes. It will cover materials presented and discussed in class between the time of the quiz and the mid-term. It will include multiple-choice, true/false, short concepts and calculation questions.

If you are absent for the midterm, email me as soon as possible to discuss how we will weight your course evaluations differently. I reserve the right to request a Self-Declaration form or PMC letter of accommodation depending on the length of incapacitation.

Assignment Policy

One assignment will be expected in this course. Students will be put into groups of 5 to complete the assignment. Every student is required to participate fully in the group assignment to satisfy the course requirement. Each group will submit one group assignment which will be due on March 25, 2025, through Brightspace. Submission of individual assignments are not permitted and will not be graded. All submitted assignments should be typed. Hand-written assignments will not be accepted.

Re-use of the same piece of work previously submitted for credit in another course is not permitted for the assignment. Any use of generative AI tools to complete the assignment is a violation of academic integrity standards.

Late Policy on Assignment

Students will lose 5% per each day for submitting assignments after the due date of March 25, 2025. Assignment teams that fail to submit their assignments without a compelling reason will be awarded a grade of zero for the assignment and the assignment grade will not be distributed to the remaining evaluation instruments.

Final Exam

The final exam will be in-person as scheduled by the University during the exam period between April 11 and April 26, 2025. It will be non-cumulative and include multiple-choice, true/false, short concept, and calculation questions. The exam duration is 150 minutes. Students are not to make travel plans during the exam period as that is not a valid reason for missing a final exam.

Class Participation/Attendance

Students must attend class at least 60% of the time to fulfil the course requirements and achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

Satisfactory Performance Criteria

Students must fulfill all of the course requirements, including class participation and the final exam, in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

Deferred Finals

Students who do not write the final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred final examination by contacting the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination was scheduled. In the event that a student writes a deferred examination, the deferred examination will carry the same weight as the final examination in determining the overall course grade. Any deferred examination may not be identical to the original final examination.

Deferred final exams (which must be applied for at the RO) are only available to students in good standing in the course. This implies that the student has to meet the class attendance requirements and with a weighted grade (before the final exam) of not less than 20%.

E-Proctoring

E-proctoring will not be used for evaluations in this course.

Final Grade Approval

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

7. Academic Integrity

Use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT).

The use of any generative AI tools to produce assessed content is not permitted in this course and will be considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

You are responsible for reading and knowing the information about plagiarism, Carleton University resources, and academic accommodations found [HERE](#).

8. Student Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone.

There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>
Students may also access the following resources:

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

9. Requests for Academic Accommodations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

I may ask students requesting short-term considerations to provide supporting documentation through the [Academic Consideration for Coursework form](#).