

Carleton University
Department of Economics

The Economics of Development
ECON 4507
Fall 2021

Instructor: Rashid Nikzad

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Lectures: Tuesdays, 18:05 – 20:55 (Online)

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to study issues in economic development in terms of theory, evidence, and policy. The course will cover material describing the pattern of economic development and evaluating the impacts of various policies on inequality and poverty. The course will (i) apply economic theory to questions pertinent to economic policy in developing countries; (ii) discuss the major debates in the problems of underdevelopment; and (iii) introduce policies to address underdevelopment issues. The emphasis will be on using economic theory to understand underlying questions about development.

Course Delivery: The course will be offered online. Each session includes three components: (1) Course slides and a set of pre-recorded lectures that explain the slides; (2) A set of pre-recorded mini lectures related to the topic of the day for self-study. Components (1) and (2) will be posted weekly on Brightspace; (3) Weekly live sessions in which students can ask questions about the lectures. The live sessions will be held at the beginning of the scheduled sessions on Brightspace and will last until students have questions. Except the first session, live sessions will not be recorded. More information will be provided in the first session. Note that student attendance and participation in the first lecture is compulsory.

Prerequisite: ECON 2030 with a grade of C- or higher or ECON 2003 (no longer offered) with a grade of C- or higher, and ECON 2103 with a grade of C- or higher. Students who believe they have taken a similar background course or courses from another university must provide appropriate documentation to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Renee Lortie.

Preclusions: This course precludes additional credit for ECON 3508 if taken concurrently with or prior to ECON 3508 (Introduction to Economic Development).

Textbooks

(Recommended) Schaffner, Julie, "Development Economics: Theory, Empirical Research, and Policy Analysis", Wiley, 2013.

(Recommended) Todaro, Michael and Stephen C. Smith, "Economic Development", Pearson, 12th Edition, 2015.

Students may purchase the textbooks from the CU bookstore website. The bookstore is offering free shipping on all print copies of textbooks (<https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/shop/textbooks-and->

[course-materials](#)). Students may also access the electronic version of the textbook via the textbook publisher's website and amazon.

Course structure

Session 1 - Course introduction

Session 2 - What is development?

Schaffner: Chapters 1 and 2

Todaro and Smith: Chapters 1 and 2

Sessions 3 - 4 - Theories of economic growth and development

Schaffner: Chapters 3 and 4

Todaro and Smith: Chapters 3 and 4

Unger, C.R., (2010) "Histories of Development and Modernization: Findings, Reflections, Future Research", <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/forum/2010-12-001>.

Palma, G., (1978) "Dependency: A Formal Theory of Underdevelopment of a Methodology for the Analysis of Concrete Situations of Underdevelopment?", World Development, Volume 6, Issues 7-8, pp. 881-924.

Mkandawire, t. and C.C. Soludo, (1999) "Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment", International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Chapters 2 and 3.

Session 5 - Measuring poverty and inequality

Schaffner: Chapter 5

Todaro and Smith: Chapter 5

Conference Board of Canada, "World Income Inequality: Is the world becoming more unequal?"

Session 6 - Labor markets, education, and human capital

Schaffner: Chapters 9, 16 and 19

Todaro and Smith: Chapter 8.1-8.5

Sessions 7 - Domestic and international markets

Schaffner: Chapters 8 and 11

Todaro and Smith: Chapters 12 and 13

Session 8 - Investment and financial markets

Schaffner: Chapters 10 and 21

Todaro and Smith: Chapters 14 and 15

Session 9 - Governance, institutions and economic development

Schaffner: Chapters 12 and 13

Todaro and Smith: Chapter 11

Acemoglu, D., and J.A. Robinson, (2012), "Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty", New York: Crown Business.

Sessions 10 and 11 - Research project presentations (online on Brightspace)

Session 12 - Examples of targeted policies

Schaffner: Chapters 17, 18, 20, and 22

Todaro and Smith: Chapters 6, 7, 8.6-8.8, 9, and 10

Lecture notes, announcements, due dates and other information will be posted on Brightspace. Students are responsible for regularly checking Brightspace to ensure that have access to posted documents and that they are up to date with any announcements.

Disclaimer: Please note that modifications/additions may be made to the list of readings. Any such modifications will be announced in a timely fashion in class. Please check the updated weekly schedule at Brightspace.

Course Evaluation

Research project presentation: 15% (On sessions 10 and 11)

Participation: 20% (Online comments on other students' presentations)

Research project: 45% (Due on the last day of the term)

Final exam: 20% (Online as scheduled by the university during the final exam period)

Students will receive a grade of zero if they miss the project presentation unless they provide a compelling reason. If the compelling reason is accepted, the weight of the presentation will be transferred to the research essay. Note that the documentation provided by students, e.g. doctor's note or police report, may be subject to verification.

For the research project and research essay, students will analyze the relationship between development indicators and socioeconomic and governance indicators of selected countries. Students will lose 20% of the mark per day if they miss the due date.

Please note that the final examination in this course will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/> and <https://carleton.ca/ses/wp-content/uploads/CoMaS-Student-Instructions-v.-1.06.pdf>.

University Policies

Academic Integrity: Please be aware that all work submitted as requirements of this course must be both your own work and original to this course. Students should consult Section 14 of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar, General Regulations concerning academic integrity and instructional offences.

Plagiarism: Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offence at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For information on how to do so, please see "Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing" at carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries.

Course grades: 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. Application to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar's Office.

Final exam: Failure to write the final examination when the student has achieved satisfactory performance during the term will result in a grade of 'F' until an appeal to write the deferred final exam

is granted. A change of grade will be submitted when the deferred final exam has been written and the marks are available. See Academic Regulation 2.3 for the official meanings of the grades. Application to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar's Office in writing no later than three working days after the original final examination.

Students who are unable to complete term work on time, or unable to complete final assignments on time, must work with their instructor to obtain an alternative arrangement. The Registrar cannot defer term work and final term work. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date.

Requests for Academic Accommodation: You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the [Equity Services website](#).

Religious obligation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the [Equity Services website](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see [the policy](#).

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline.