



**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECON 5505/ECO 6172 – SELECTED TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
FALL 2024**

Contact Information:

Prof. Ana C. Dammert

E-mail: ana_dammert@carleton.ca

Course delivery: In person

Virtual office hours: Wednesdays, 10 am—noon (Zoom) or by appointment. The Zoom link for office hours is available on Brightspace.

Sign up for online office hours here: <https://calendly.com/cuecongrad/2024>.

Learning Outcomes: The intended learning outcome is to gain knowledge on selected topics of current interest in development economics from both a theoretical and empirical perspective.

Course Requirements: The course involves lectures and discussions (lectures followed by discussions on each topic). Course grades will be based on exams, assignments, and a research proposal.

Assignments (2):	30%	15% each, due Oct 7, and Nov 25
Research Proposal:	35%	Topic selection due Sept 30, paper due Dec 6
Final Exam (in person):	35%	3 hr. in-person exam to be scheduled by the University.

October 14th: Holiday, no classes

October 21st-25th: Fall Break, no classes

Last day of classes: December 6th (Friday) – follow a Monday schedule.

Students are expected to participate in class by coming prepared to discuss the assigned material(s). Students must have read assigned papers before class and be prepared to discuss the papers.

Late assignments will receive a 10-percentage points penalty for every 24 hours that your assignment is late. Extensions will not be granted except in exceptional circumstances if a self-declaration of illness form is submitted **at least 24 hours** before the assignment is due. The form is available here <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>

Using generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.



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

Research Proposal (35%): Each student will write a 10–12-page research proposal for an original project on a development economics topic. The topic of the research proposal could be the same as the one presented in ECON 5500/ECO 6170 (Theory of Development Economics / Development Economics I). Your proposal should specify the research question and include a critical review of the existing literature, the contributions of your project to the literature, a description of the data to be used, and the proposed empirical strategy. Note that the project will not be completed as part of this course. PhD students wishing to carry out an empirical paper should contact me at the beginning of class.

Students are expected to send me their topic and get approval before **September 30**. The research proposal is due on **December 6** at 2:30 pm and should be submitted via Brightspace. No late research proposals will be accepted.

Satisfactory Performance Criteria: Students must fulfill all the preceding course requirements to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

Deferred Final Exam: 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, it will carry the same weight as the final examination in determining the course grade. Any deferred examination will not be identical to the original final examination.

E-Mail Policy: I will do my best to respond to e-mail within 24 hours on a weekday. Please use your Carleton email address and include ECON 5505 in the subject line. Please see me during office hours for detailed questions or questions regarding the results of graded material.

Copyright: Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

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's 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.

Academic Accommodation: 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 <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>

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/>



TOPICS (TENTATIVE):

Poverty, Inequality, and Development

- Ray, *Development Economics*, Princeton University Press, 1998, Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7
- Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo (2007), "The Economic Lives of the Poor," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1): 141-167.
- Subramanian, S. and A. Deaton (1996). "The Demand for Food and Calories." *Journal of Political Economy* 104(1), 133-162.
- Strauss, J. (1986). "Does Better Nutrition Raise Farm Productivity?" *Journal of Political Economy* 94, 297–320.
- Almas, I., J. Haushofer and J. Shapiro. (2019). "The Income Elasticity for Nutrition: Evidence from Unconditional Cash Transfers in Kenya." National Bureau of Economic Research WP No. w25711.
- Jensen, R. and N. Miller (2008) "Giffen Behavior and Subsistence Consumption" *American Economic Review*, 98(4): 1553-1577

Human Capital Investment: Education

- Duflo, E. (2001). "Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment," *American Economic Review*, 91(4): 795-813.
- Schultz, T. P. (2004). "School subsidies for the poor: Evaluating the Mexican Progresa poverty program." *Journal of Development Economics*. 74(1), 199-250.
- Baird S, C. McIntosh and B. Ozler (2011). "Cash or condition? Evidence from a cash transfer experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, 1709-1753.
- Banerjee, A., Cole, S., Duflo, E., and L. Linden (2007) "Remedying Education: Evidence from Two Randomized Experiments in India," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(3): 1235-1264.
- Jensen, R. (2010) "The (Perceived) Return to Education and the Demand for Schooling," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125(2): 515-548.
- Dizon-Ross, R. (2019) "Parents' Beliefs about Their Children's Academic Ability: Implications for Educational Investments." *American Economic Review*, 109 (8): 2728-65

Human Capital Investment: Health

- Dupas, P. (2009) "Health Behavior in Developing Countries" *Annual Review of Economics* 3(1):425-449
- Dupas, P., and E. Miguel. (2016). *Impacts and Determinants of Health Levels in Low-Income Countries*. NBER Working Paper Series, no. w22235. Cambridge, Mass: National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Ashraf, N., J. Berry and J. Shapiro (2010). "Can Higher Prices Stimulate Product Use?" *American Economics Review* 100(5), 2383-2413



- Jalan, J. and E. Somanathan (2008) "The Importance of Being Informed: Experimental Evidence on Demand for Environmental Quality" *Journal of Development Economics*, 87:14-28.

Intra-household Allocation and Gender

- Jayachandran, S. (2015) "The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries" *Annual Review of Economics* 7:1, 63-88
- Duflo, E. (2002). "Granddaughters and grandmothers: Old age pensions in South Africa." *World Bank Economic Review*, 17 (1), 1–25.
- Ashraf, N. (2009) "Spousal Control and Intra-Household Decision Making: An Experimental Study in the Philippines." *American Economic Review*, 99(4), 1245-77.
- Jensen, R. (2012). "Do Labor Market Opportunities Affect Young Women's Work and Family Decisions? Experimental Evidence from India", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 127(2): 753-792.

Labor Markets

- Behrman, J. (1999). "Labor Markets in Developing Countries." In: *Handbook of Labor Economics* Volume 3. Ed. by Orley Ashenfelter and David Card. Elsevier, pp. 2859–2939.
- Beaman, L. and J. Magruder. (2012). "Who Gets the Job Referral? Evidence from a Social Networks Experiment." *American Economic Review*, 102 (7): 3574-93.
- Blattman, C. and S. Dercon. (2018). "The Impacts of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Work on Income and Health: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 10 (3): 1-38.
- Alfonsi, L., Bandiera, O., Bassi, V., Burgess, R., Rasul, I., Sulaiman, M. and Vitali, A. (2020) "Tackling Youth Unemployment: Evidence from a Labor Market Experiment in Uganda" *Econometrica*, 88: 2369-2414.
- Bardhan, P. and C. Udry (2000). *Development Microeconomics*, Chapter 2, "Household Economics", 7-19.
- Fink, G., K. Jack, and F. Masiye. (2020). "Seasonal Liquidity, Rural Labor Markets, and Agricultural Production" *American Economic Review*, 110 (11): 3351-92.
- LaFave, D. and D. Thomas (2016). "Farms, Families, and Markets: New Evidence on Completeness of Markets in Agricultural Settings." *Econometrica*, 84(5), 1917-60

Child Labor

- Basu, K. (1999) "Child Labor: Cause, Consequence, and Cure, with Remarks on International Labor Standards" *Journal of Economic Literature*, 37(3):1083-1119
- Edmonds, Eric and N. Pavcnik (2005). "Child Labor in the Global Economy." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 19(1): 199–220.



- Edmonds, E. and M. Shrestha (2014) “You Get What You Pay For: Schooling Incentives and Child Labor” *Journal of Development Economics*, 111: 196-211.
- Edmonds, E and C. Theoharides (2020) “The Short Term Impact of a Productive Asset Transfer in Families with Child Labor: Experimental Evidence from the Philippines,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 146

Credit Markets

- Banerjee, A., D. Karlan, and J. Zinman. (2015). “Six Randomized Evaluations of Microcredit: Introduction and Further Steps.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7 (1): 1-21.
- Karlan, D. and Zinman, J. (2009). “Observing Unobservables: Identifying Information Asymmetries with a Consumer Credit Field Experiment” *Econometrica*, 77: 1993-2008.
- Giné, X. and D. Karlan (2014). “Group versus Individual Liability: Short and Long Term Evidence from Philippine Microcredit Lending Groups.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 107: 65–83

Disclaimer: I may modify or add to the list of readings. Any such modifications will be announced promptly in class and Brightspace. All material will be available at either Ares or Brightspace.
<https://doi.org/10.3982/ECTA15959>