Course Hours

Wednesday 14:30 - 17:30  
Location: FSS9003  
Type:

Professor

Makdissi, Paul (paul.makdissi@uottawa.ca)  
Office Hours  
Monday 11:30 - 12:30  
Location: Room (FSS9008)

Course Description

Major domestic problems of economic development. Topics may include employment, income distribution, choice of technology, sectoral allocation of resources, human resources development, and domestic environment issues. This course is equivalent to ECON 5504 at Carleton University.

Further Information

This course addresses an internal aspect of economic development: the empirical measurement of wellbeing in both income and non-income dimensions. Some methodologies of incidence analysis of public policies on wellbeing as well as regression modeling of inequality measures will also be presented.

General and Specific Objectives

The student needs to study and understand the material that will be covered in class. The professor will follow closely the sequence listed in the file "outline.pdf"

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, student will be able to:

The student should be able to prove the theoretical results presented in class and to solve and interpret problems related to these results.
Evaluations

Written exam (e.g. exam, long answer)

Evaluation Date: Wednesday 28 February, 2018
Evaluation Percentage: 40

The material of this exam will cover the theoretical concepts presented in Chapters 1 to 6. The exam consists of 3 sections. A student wishing to use the washroom during the first hour of the exam has to hand back section 1. A student wishing to use the washroom during the second hour of the exam has to hand back section 1 and 2. A student cannot hand back section 3 before the end of the second hour. It is forbidden to use the washroom during the third hour of the exam.

Oral presentation

Evaluation Date: Wednesday 21 March, 2018
Evaluation Percentage: 20

Oral presentation

Evaluation Date: Wednesday 28 March, 2018
Evaluation Percentage:

Oral presentation

Evaluation Date: Wednesday 4 April, 2018
Evaluation Percentage:

Take Home Final Exam

Evaluation Date: Final Exam Period
Evaluation Percentage: 40

Take Home Final Exam:

Part 1: Empirical application (20%)

The empirical application will be based on a subset of the Malawi Integrated Household Survey 2010-2011. This data set and the exams questions are already available on this course virtual campus. The student will have to apply some of the tools presented in class to the data set. The presentation of the results should take the form of properly built tables (not just the Stata output) and discussion. The student should send by email the results of the empirical application AND the Stata do file before April 26 at midnight.

Part 2: Literature review and research proposal (20%)

The student should write a literature review and a research proposal. The idea is to extend the paper chosen for the oral presentation and frame this extension into the economics literature. This research proposal is also due on April 26 before midnight and should also be submitted by email.

Other Information

Policy on language quality and late submissions
Class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course.

You will also be judged on your writing abilities. It is recommended to take the appropriate measures to avoid mistakes such as spelling, syntax, punctuation, inappropriate use of terms, etc. You may be penalized up to 15%, to the professor’s discretion.

Late submissions are not tolerated. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the professor. There will be a penalty for late submissions. University regulations require all absences from exams and all late submissions due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate.

Absence for any other serious reason must be justified in writing, to the academic assistants of the Faculty, within five business days following the date of the exam or submission of an assignment. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason. Reasons such as travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable.

A penalty of 5% will be given for each subsequent day following the due date (weekends not included). This goes for assignments submitted through e-mail as well, and, in this case, the time that the e-mail was received will be counted as the time of submission of the document.

We suggest that you advise your professor as early as possible if a religious holiday or a religious event will force you to be absent during an evaluation.

Department of Economics' policy on deferred exams:

1. Deferred exams for winter economics courses will be scheduled Friday, May 4th 2018.
2. Only medical certificates from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the College of Psychologists of Ontario, or their Québec equivalents, are considered to be valid medical certificates. Certificates from naturopaths, homeopaths, doctors of traditional Chinese medicine, etc., will not be accepted.
3. Requests for a deferred final exam must be submitted to the Department of Economics office (in the case of undergraduate courses) or through uoZone (in the case of graduate courses) within 5 business days of the date of the exam. Request
Monographs


Scientific Articles

Chapter 2 :


Chapter 3 :


**Chapter 4:**


**Chapter 5:**


Chapter 6:


Makdissi, P., D. Sylla and M. Yazbeck (2013), Decomposing health achievement and socioeconomic


**Chapter 7:**


Linton, Maasoumi and Whang (2005), Consistent testing for stochastic dominance under general sampling schemes, *Review of Economic Studies*, 72, 735-765.


**Chapter 8:**


**Documents and Articles on the Web**


You can find a free Stata add-on for distributive analysis at: [http://dasp.ecn.ulaval.ca/](http://dasp.ecn.ulaval.ca/)
Plagiarism

Beware of academic fraud!

Academic fraud is an act by a student that may result in a false evaluation (including papers, tests, examinations, etc.). It is not tolerated by the University. Any person found guilty of academic fraud will be subject to severe sanctions.

Here are some examples of academic fraud:

- Plagiarism or cheating of any kind;
- Present research data that has been falsified;
- Submit a work for which you are not the author, in whole or part;
- Submit the same piece of work for more than one course without the written consent of the professors concerned.

Please consult this webpage; it contains regulations and tool to help you avoid plagiarism.

An individual who commits or attempts to commit academic fraud, or who is an accomplice, will be penalized. Here are some examples of possible sanctions:

- Receive an “F” for the work or in the course in question;
- Imposition of additional requirements (from 3 to 30 credits) to the program of study;
- Suspension or expulsion from the Faculty.

You can refer to the regulations on this webpage.

Student Services

Academic Writing Help Centre

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer.

In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- Master the written language of your choice
- Expand your critical thinking abilities
- Develop your argumentation skills
- Learn what the expectations are for academic writing

Career Services

Career Services offers various services and a career development program to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.

Counselling Service

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

**Access Service**

The Access Service acts as intermediary between students, their faculty and other University offices to ensure that the special needs of these students are addressed and that the best possible learning conditions are being offered.

Note that the University of Ottawa is affiliated with [AERO](https://www.aero.org) and [ACE](https://www.aceorg.org) services for the adaptation of accessible academic materials for students with perceptual disabilities. If you have any questions, please contact the [Accessibility Librarian](https://www.uottawa.ca/library/accessibility) or the [Access services](https://www.uottawa.ca/library/quicklinks/accesservices) for textbooks.

**Policy - Prevention of Sexual Violence**

The University of Ottawa will not tolerate any act of sexual violence. This includes acts such as rape and sexual harassment, as well as misconduct that take place without consent, which includes cyberbullying. The University, as well as various employee and student groups, offers a variety of services and resources to ensure that all uOttawa community members have access to confidential support and information, and to procedures for reporting an incident or filing a complaint. For more information, please visit [www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention/](http://www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention/).

**Last updated: Thursday 11 January, 2018**
# Outline

## CHAPTER 1  INTRODUCTION TO THE EMPIRICAL MEASUREMENT OF WELL-BEING

1.1 Survey issues  
1.2 Income versus consumption  
1.3 Price variability  
1.4 Household heterogeneity  
1.5 Continuous distributions  
1.6 Discrete distributions  
1.7 Poverty gaps  
1.8 Cardinal versus ordinal comparisons

## CHAPTER 2  MEASURING INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

2.1 The Lorenz curves  
2.2 Gini indices  
2.3 Social welfare and inequality  
2.4 Decomposition of inequality  
2.5 An historical view of inequality among World citizens

## CHAPTER 3  MESURING POVERTY

3.1 Poverty Indices  
3.2 Subgroup decomposable poverty indices  
3.3 Poverty and inequality  
3.4 Decomposition of poverty  
3.5 Poverty in Africa I

## CHAPTER 4  STOCHASTIC DOMINANCE, POVERTY AND WELFARE

4.1 Ordering distributions  
4.2 Ethical judgments  
4.3 Stochastic dominance and poverty  
4.4 Stochastic dominance and social welfare  
4.5 Poverty in Africa II  
4.6 Poverty in Lebanon
CHAPTER 5 ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF TAX REFORMS

5.1 Introduction and summary
5.2 Notation and definitions
5.3 Consumer welfare and government budget
5.4 Measuring poverty and social welfare
5.5 Identification of socially-improving tax reforms
5.6 Indirect tax in Mexico
5.7 Food subsidies in Egypt

CHAPTER 6 HEALTH INEQUALITIES

6.1 Measures of health inequalities
6.2 Measurement problems associated with the concentration index
6.3 How to use categorical data

CHAPTER 7 STATISTICAL INFERENCE FOR DISTRIBUTIONAL ANALYSIS

7.1 Why statistical methods?
7.2 Inference for indices
7.3 Stochastic dominance

CHAPTER 8 DISTRIBUTION REGRESSIONS AND COUNTERFACTUAL DECOMPOSITION

8.1 Introduction
8.2 Recentered influence function regression
8.3 Counterfactual decomposition
8.4 Counterfactual decomposition of pro-poorness of growth in Bangladesh
8.5 Distribution regressions
8.6 Changes in changes: Identifying a causal effect on a change in a distribution function