



**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECON 5505/ECO 6172 – SELECTED TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS
FALL 2026**

Contact Information:

Prof. Ana C. Dammert

E-mail: ana_dammert@carleton.ca

Course delivery: In person

Class time: Tuesday, 2:35 pm-5:25 pm. Class location is available at Brightspace.

Virtual office hours: Tuesdays, 10 am—noon (Zoom) or by appointment. Sign up for online office hours at Brightspace.

Learning Outcomes: The intended learning outcome is to gain knowledge of 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 6 and Nov 24
Research Proposal:	30%	Topic selection due Sept 29, paper due Dec 8
Final Exam (in person):	40%	3-hour in-person exam to be scheduled by the University.

October 26th – 30th: Fall Break, no classes

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

Students are expected to participate in class by coming prepared to discuss the assigned material(s). Students must read the assigned papers before class and be prepared to discuss them. Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Research Proposal (30%): Each student will write a 10-page research proposal for an original project on a development economics topic. The research proposal topic may 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, your project's contributions to the literature, a description of the data to be used, and the proposed empirical strategy. Note that you will not complete the project in this course. PhD students who wish to write an empirical paper should contact me at the beginning of class. Students are expected to send me their topic and get approval by September 29. The research proposal is due on December 8 at 2:30 pm and should be submitted via Brightspace. I will not accept late submissions.



Assignments (30%): Due at 2:30 pm on Oct 6th and Nov 24th. Late assignments will receive a 10-percentage-point penalty for every 24 hours that your assignment is late. Extensions will not be granted except in exceptional cases.

Satisfactory Performance Criteria: Students must meet all course requirements to earn a passing grade.

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.

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

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.



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. If 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 about 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).

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. Numerous resources are available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Topics: The following outlines the tentative list of significant issues to be discussed throughout the semester. The extent and coverage of each topic will depend on time availability.

1. What is Development? Issues and indicators
2. Poverty, Inequality, and Development
3. Nutrition and Productivity
4. Human Capital Investment: Education
5. Human Capital Investment: Health
6. Labor Markets
7. Urbanization and the Agricultural Sector

This course will rely heavily on Brightspace. Each student is responsible for checking this website for posted materials. I will also send class announcements via email using Brightspace. Therefore, please check your email frequently.