

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

FALL 2026

ECON 3508 A

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Instructor: Professor Vivek H. Dehejia

Office hours: By appointment (Send email to request. I typically respond within one business day.)

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Brightspace: [Homepage - ECON3508A Intro to Economic Development \(LEC\) Fall 2026](#)

Class time: Wednesday, 2:35 pm — 5:25 pm. Class location on Carleton Central.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Welcome to the course. Please keep in mind that it is offered in person only and isn't suited for online students. Lectures won't be recorded or made available on Brightspace. I do not lecture from prepared notes or PowerPoint slides, so those materials can't be provided. Coming to class and taking your own notes will be important for your success. If you happen to miss a lecture, you'll need to take responsibility for catching up on what was covered. Other than the course outline, the rest of the course information will be shared during class rather than posted online.

Course description and readings

Calendar Description, Preclusions, Prerequisites

A discussion of the principles of economic development. Application to the problems of developing countries.

Precludes additional credit for ECON 3603 (no longer offered). Credit will not be given if taken concurrently with or after ECON 4507. Prerequisite(s): ECON 1001 or ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003 with a minimum grade of D-.

May not be enrolled as the following classifications: first year undergraduate or second year undergraduate.

Required Readings/Audiovisual Materials

Textbook Required for Purchase

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty eBook : Acemoglu, Daron, Robinson, James A.: Amazon.ca: Kindle Store

Above is the link to the Kindle edition at Amazon Canada. The price (as this course outline is written) is \$16.99.

Additional Required Readings/Audiovisual Materials

Please note that I will be referring to a selection of my X articles (and linked references cited therein) as well as audiovisual materials from my YouTube website. For your reference, the links to the home pages are below. Specific articles/audiovisual materials that are required for the course are noted below the links. An X or YouTube account is not required for access.

Articles: Vivek Dehejia (@vdehejia) / X

Audiovisual Materials: Vivek Dehejia - YouTube

Required Articles

“Does Extreme Wealth Concentration Corrode the Polity?”
<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2065549078440943674?s=20>

“The Crisis in the Liberal International Order”
<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2059495893364056122?s=20>

“The great global inequality debate”
<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2057839703257153691?s=20>

“The return of trade protectionism”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2057823000129314868?s=20>

“The ‘3-3-3’ puzzle and what to do about it”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2057656537498145275?s=20>

“A more perfect union”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2057652124121506172?s=20>

“In the Eye of the Storm, or Rescued from Shipwreck?”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2057475700706218152?s=20>

“The Fallacy of the ‘Free Market’ and the Future of Globalization”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2057111011061072238?s=20>

“Trade Liberalization and Wage Inequality, Redux”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2056899378778935627?s=20>

“Unconventional Monetary Policies: A Cure Worse than the Disease?”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2056847940375773535?s=20>

“Global Governance: Holy Grail, Dangerous Mirage, or Red Herring?”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2056845517649223981?s=20>

“The fatal conceit of technocracy that afflicts most policymaking”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2056821684225601558?s=20>

“Is good economics necessarily good (or necessarily bad) politics?”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2056806741468152025?s=20>

“Is the world living through a new ‘gilded age’?”

<https://x.com/vdehejia/status/2056492936788144198?s=20>

Required Audiovisual Materials

“Imperial Receipts – Shashi Tharoor” (selected episodes)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF5F-lw4U9iX5gocudPESp6bnpqL1ypO-&si=ueJQLY7WakHLDMIy>

“Global Political Economy...” (selected episodes)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF5F-lw4U9iU9AiXTtekJVa5QaeuZtS5M&si=kG7tOS5zK2ANNhbb>

“Vivek Dehejia...” (selected episodes)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF5F-lw4U9iUIYiFPjPvOl7bg3NOK1bIa&si=UUE6T1CDtTYXHDXb>

“Vivek Dehejia: Zoom Conversations” (selected episodes)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF5F-lw4U9iX7vrm5rvjm9iItzzJmwtOn&si=AhSraKfloNnh9-Y1>

“James Dean in Lecture and Conversation” (selected episodes)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF5F-lw4U9iXDaFo-77CAIEyAlqQLC8yb&si=3xJv9xPc-91Ijztv>

Specific selections to be viewed will be announced in class.

Please note: additional readings/audiovisual materials may be assigned during the course.

Students are strongly encouraged, but not required, to subscribe to The Economist. Student discounts are available.

Themes/Topics

The course will be organized around the central question of economic development: Why are some countries rich and other countries poor? That question was first raised, at least in the modern Anglo-American tradition of political economy, by Adam Smith in “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations,” in 1776. Nobel laureates Daren Acemoglu and James A. Robinson ask the same question in their much more recent book. There are also important corollary questions: What can currently poor countries do to raise their levels of per capita income and become richer? What is the relationship between income and human development? What role has economic liberalization, and its international counterpart, globalization, played in economic development over the past several decades? What is the relationship between income/wealth inequalities and economic development?

What is the relationship between economic development and climate change? What should be the right balance between the government and the market/capitalism to foster equitable, sustainable, and just economic development? And many others that flow from these basic questions.

Additional topics, related to the central themes, will be adumbrated during the course of the term. A week-by-week outline will not be provided. Rather, the course will be allowed to evolve organically from week to week as we work through the material and in light of new material or news events that may speak to our topics.

Learning Outcomes

The intended learning outcome is to gain knowledge of the subject matter of the course and to receive training in thinking, reading, and writing analytically and critically, as well as to receive training in speaking effectively in a seminar discussion setting.

Evaluation

The course evaluation consists of two components: a take-home midterm exam (worth 40 points) and a scheduled final exam (worth 60 points). Details follow below.

The take-home midterm exam will go live on Wednesday, November 4 (the first class after reading week), and will be due a week later, Wednesday, November 11. The midterm exam will be essay type. Details on the midterm exam will be provided closer to the exam date, and the exam itself will be discussed in class on the day it goes live. The scheduled final exam will take place during the final examination period. The date will be set by the exam scheduling office. The final exam will be essay type. Sample questions will be provided in the last class of the term, and the exam questions will be drawn from, or be similar to, the sample questions.

Late Submission/Non-submission of the take-home midterm exam/Satisfactory performance criteria

If the take-home midterm exam is not submitted when it is due – for whatever reason – the points will automatically be transferred to the final exam. There are no exceptions to this rule.

If a student fails to write the final exam, they may apply for a deferred final exam with the Registrar's Office (RO) within three working days of the due date. The RO will determine if you are eligible for a deferred final exam and, if you are permitted, will duly inform me of their decision.

Irrespective of the grade on the take-home midterm exam, a student must pass the final exam if they are to pass the course. A failing grade on the final exam, irrespective of the grade on the take-home midterm exam grade, will result in a grade of "F" on the course.

Plagiarism

The university's policy on plagiarism may be found here:
<https://carleton.ca/FASS-FPA-teaching-regulations/course-outlines/> .

You are expected to read and understand this policy.

Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT)

As our understanding of the uses of GenAI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of GenAI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

With the advent of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, the university requires that instructors outline a policy on if, and how, its use is allowed.

In this course, you are permitted to use generative AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT or other similar large language models, as a research tool, much as you would use a Google search on the internet to

ferret out information, data, sources, etc. However, work you submit must be your own and written by you, not by an AI chatbot. Please also be aware that AI chatbots such as ChatGPT can “hallucinate” and respond to your query with factually incorrect information that it has made up but which is not true. If you use an AI chatbot as a research tool, it is your responsibility to fact check any information that the chatbot shares with you. The same holds, of course, for any other information you locate on the internet — if in any doubt of its veracity, and as a matter of prudence, fact check it.

Mental Health

As a University 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. You can find detailed information here:

<https://carleton.ca/wellness/> .

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).