Faculté des sciences sociales | Faculty of Social Sciences
Département de science économique | Department of Economics

DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS I
ECO 6170A
Fall 2026

Course Information

Class Schedule:

Format: In person
Time: Monday 14:30 - 17:20
Location: 120 University (FSS), room 9003

Instructor:

Name: Jason Garred
Email: Jason.Garred@uottawa.ca
Office Location: FSS 9023
Office Hours: Monday 9:15 - 10:45 and Thursday 10:30 - 12:00

- You do not need an appointment to visit my office hours in person.
- Please make an appointment in advance if you would prefer to speak to me via Zoom.

Official Course Description

This course covers topics at the forefront of development economics, combining theoretical and empirical analysis. Possible topics include economic growth, firm behaviour, institutions, and political economy, among others.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Course Learning Outcomes

The main aim of the course is to introduce students to the current academic literature in development economics, as well as standard empirical methods used in this field. By the end of the course, it is intended that students will be better able to read and understand academic papers in the field of development economics, and formulate plans for their own research.

Teaching Methods

Classes will be held in person. Before each class, you will be expected to read the academic papers that we will discuss in class. This will usually require you to read two papers per week. During class, we will then discuss these papers together. The format will be interactive: I will ask questions of the class, and take questions from students, throughout each class. Because of this interactive format, I will not make audio or video recordings of the class available on Brightspace.

Course Calendar

Date	**Topic**	**Assignments due**
Mon Sept 14	Class 1 - Introduction and econometrics review	
Mon Sept 21	Class 2 - Market access, part 1	
Mon Sept 28	Class 3 - Technology transfer, part 1	Problem set 1 (Fri Oct 2)
Mon Oct 5	Class 4 - Technology transfer, part 2	
Mon Oct 12	No class (holiday)	Literature review (Tues Oct 13)
Mon Oct 19	Class 5 - Market access, part 2	Problem set 2 (Fri Oct 23)
Mon Oct 26	No class (reading week)	
Mon Nov 2	Class 6 - Infrastructure	
Mon Nov 9	Midterm exam	
Mon Nov 16	Class 7 - Institutions	
Mon Nov 23	Class 8 - Misallocation	
Mon Nov 30	Class 9 - Anti-poverty programs	Paper proposal (Tues Dec 1)
Mon Dec 7	Class 10 - Poverty traps	
Wed Dec 9	Research roundtable	
Exam period	Final exam	

Assessment Strategy

There will be two in-person, closed-book exams. The midterm exam (30%) will be held in class on Monday November 9 and will be the length of the class time (two hours fifty minutes). The final exam (30%) will be held during the exam period and will be three hours in length. On each exam, students will be asked to answer six questions (out of seven possible choices). The midterm exam will cover the course readings in classes 2 to 6, and the final exam will cover the course readings in classes 7 to 10 (i.e. the final exam is not cumulative). See the bibliography below for the list of readings for each exam.

There will be three assignments, including two problem sets (6% each) due Friday October 2 and Friday October 23, a brief literature review (7%) due Tuesday October 13, and a paper proposal (15%) due Tuesday December 1.

There will also be a participation grade (6%). If you make a substantive contribution to discussion during at least three different classes, you will receive full marks (6/6). Otherwise you will receive no marks (0/6). A 'substantive contribution' could involve making a comment or asking a thoughtful question. I will not be judging the quality of your contributions; instead, I will simply record whether you get involved in discussions in three or more classes.

Assessment Type	**Weight**	**Date**
Participation in class discussions	6 %	
Problem set 1	6 %	Fri Oct 2
Literature review	7 %	Tues Oct 13
Problem set 2	6 %	Fri Oct 23
Midterm exam	30 %	Mon Nov 9
Paper proposal	15 %	Tues Dec 1
Final exam	30 %	Exam period

Assessment Policies and Expectations

Attendance

To ensure they succeed in all courses of their program of study, students have the responsibility to participate in the various learning and assessment activities for each of their courses. Because in-class discussion is of central importance to this course, students should make an effort to attend all classes.

Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted by their due date and time. There will be a penalty for late submissions as follows: one point per day late. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the professor. If such a situation affects a student and leads to late submission of an assignment, the student can contact the professor by email to seek an exception.

Missed exams and requests for deferral

As per Academic Regulation A-8, absence from any examination on medical grounds or due to exceptional personal circumstances must be reported by submitting the online Declaration of Absence from an Examination form within the three (3) working days following the examination date. If a deferred evaluation is granted for the final exam, the evaluation must take place as soon as possible, but within no later than six (6) months of the end of term for undergraduate studies and no later than three (3) months for graduate studies. A $60 fee will be charged for each submission of the Declaration of Absence from an Examination form.

Students who defer an exam will be required to write a deferred evaluation. No re-weighting scheme is available in this course. All students must write the final exam in each course.

Deferrals are intended as short-term, exceptional accommodations. Requests for a second deferral in the same course are not guaranteed and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In particular, second deferrals may be refused where there has been sustained lack of engagement in the course (e.g. missed assessments, consistently poor performance without clear mitigating circumstances, etc.).

Students should reflect deeply before requesting a deferred evaluation. Students who are struggling to keep up with their schedule may find it worthwhile to withdraw from the course and take it again at a later date. For further information on withdrawing from a course, consult the link https://www.uottawa.ca/course-enrolment/withdrawing-from-a-course.

Deferred final examinations will take place on Saturday, January 16, 2027.

Exam conflicts

Any conflict with a midterm exam schedule should be reported to the professor at the beginning of the term. This request is especially applicable to two in-class exams back-to-back for students with special learning needs. Any conflict with a final exam schedule should be reported to the Faculty's undergraduate office as soon as the final exam schedule is released.

Policy on the EIN grade (incomplete)

In all economics courses, students who fail to complete work (either a single piece of work or a combination of work) worth a total of 25% or more of the final grade will receive a grade of EIN in the course. The EIN grade is equivalent to a failure mark (F). See Regulation A-3 at the link https://www.uottawa.ca/about-us/policies-regulations/academic-regulations/a-3-grading-system for details. Please note that a denied request for a deferral may therefore lead to failing the course. Students who have not completed evaluations worth at least 25% of the total course grade by the withdrawal deadline (November 20) must withdraw from the course. Otherwise, they will receive an EIN grade and will automatically fail the course.

Required Materials

The course will be based on a set of academic papers that are listed in the bibliography below. You will be able to access these papers online at no cost through the university library.

Bibliography

In the list below, the material for the midterm exam is marked with (M) and the material for the final exam is marked with (F). Links to these readings will be posted on Brightspace.

Class 1 - Introduction and econometrics review

Introductory material – no papers to read

Class 2 - Market access, part 1

(M) McCaig, Brian and Nina Pavcnik (2018). "Export Markets and Labor Allocation in a Low-Income Country", *American Economic Review* 108 (7), 1899-1941.

Class 3 - Technology transfer, part 1

(M) Giorcelli, Michela and Bo Li (forthcoming). "Technology Transfer and Early Industrial Development: Evidence from the Sino-Soviet Alliance", *Review of Economic Studies*.

(M) Alfaro-Ureña, Alonso, Isabela Manelici and Jose P. Vasquez (2022). "The Effects of Joining Multinational Supply Chains: New Evidence from Firm-to-Firm Linkages", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 137 (3), 1495-1522.

Class 4 - Technology transfer, part 2

(M) Atkin, David, Amit K. Khandelwal and Adam Osman (2017). "Exporting and Firm Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 132 (2), 551-615.

Class 5 - Market access, part 2

(M) Rotunno, Lorenzo, Sanchari Roy, Anri Sakakibara and Pierre-Louis Vézina (forthcoming). "Trade Policy and Jobs in Vietnam: The Unintended Consequences of US-China Tariffs", *World Bank Economic Review*.

(M) Forge, Fabien, Jason Garred and Kyae Lim Kwon (2024). "When are Tariff Cuts Not Enough? Heterogeneous Effects of Trade Preferences for the Least Developed Countries", *Journal of International Economics* 152, 103971.

Class 6 - Infrastructure

(M) Faber, Benjamin (2014). “Trade Integration, Market Size, and Industrialization: Evidence from China’s National Trunk Highway System”, *Review of Economic Studies* 81 (3), 1046-1070.

Class 7 - Institutions

(F) Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane and Pablo Querubin (2018). “The Historical State, Local Collective Action, and Economic Development in Vietnam”, *Econometrica* 86 (6), 2083-2121.

(F) He, Guojun, Shaoda Wang and Bing Zhang (2020). “Watering Down Environmental Regulation in China”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 135 (4), 2135-2185.

Class 8 - Misallocation

(F) Hsieh, Chang-Tai and Peter J. Klenow (2009). “Misallocation and Manufacturing TFP in China and India”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124 (4), 1403-1448.

(F) Chen, Chaoran, Diego Restuccia and Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis (2022). “The Effects of Land Markets on Resource Allocation and Agricultural Productivity”, *Review of Economic Dynamics* 45, 41-54.

Class 9 - Anti-poverty programs

(F) Muralidharan, Karthik, Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar (2016). “Building State Capacity: Evidence from Biometric Smartcards in India”, *American Economic Review* 106 (10), 2895-2929.

(F) Muralidharan, Karthik, Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar (2023). “General Equilibrium Effects of (Improving) Public Employment Programs: Experimental Evidence from India”, *Econometrica* 91 (4), 1261-1295.

Class 10 - Poverty traps

(F) Balboni, Clare, Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Maitreesh Ghatak and Anton Heil (2022). “Why Do People Stay Poor?”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 137 (2), 785-844.