



ECON 320 A01

Economic Development

Winter Session: 202601 – Second Term, Spring 2026

CRN: 21029

Unit Value: 1.5

Hours (lecture-lab-tutorial): 3-0-0

This course is face to face and all exams are held in person.

Lecture schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am – 11:20am; January 5 – April 2, 2026

Lecture location: Room A221, Cornett Building

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Lək'ʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Eskwimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək'ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Teacher Information

Professor: Eric Protzer

Email: eprotzer@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30pm – 3:30pm PST, virtual (Zoom link will be provided on course Brightspace page)

Teaching Assistant: Isaac Otoo

Email: isaacotoo@uvic.ca

Teaching and assessment modality statement

This course is face to face and all exams are held in person.

Course Content

Official Course Description

An introduction to issues and policy problems faced by developing countries. Covers key principles, concepts and measurement issues, empirical facts and analytical perspectives associated with economic development. Topics include human development, inequality and poverty, population growth, education, health and agriculture and rural development. Topics may also include urbanization and migration, role of credit markets, globalization, environment and other current issues in development.

What is ECON 320 all about?

This is a policy-oriented class that teaches students how to think and work like economic development professionals. Students will learn how to critically evaluate the economies of developing countries with data, and complete a group project on a chosen country's economic constraints. Lecture content will introduce the stylized facts of economic development, examine important theories for and factors behind different levels of development, and teach students practical methods (Growth Diagnostics and Economic Complexity) to analyze the constraints and opportunities that developing countries face.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the history of economic development and the state of it today
- Understand major theories of economic development
- Understand leading issues in economic development, especially the role of technology
- Literacy with economic data
- Understand methods used to critically evaluate the economies of developing countries, especially Growth Diagnostics and Economic Complexity

Course Structure

Lecture Outline

This is a tentative schedule, subject to changes. Note that each topic may take up one or more individual lecture sessions.

- Course Introduction
- The Stylized Facts of Development
- The Malthusian Trap
- Escaping the Malthusian Trap
- The Solow Model of Economic Growth

- Endogenous Growth Models
- Theories of Development
- Economic Complexity
- The Product Space
- Technological Diffusion
- Public Goods
- Growth Diagnostics
- Green Growth
- Cities and Remoteness
- Policymaking as a High-Bandwidth Organization
- The Development of the State
- The Sense of Identity
- Economic Volatility
- Inequality
- Policy-Making Under Political Constraints

Due Dates of Assignments

There are three homework assignments and one final group project. See the following due dates.

Homework Assignment 1	February 6, 2026 at 11:59pm PST
Homework Assignment 2	February 27, 2026 at 11:59pm PST
Homework Assignment 3	March 20, 2026 at 11:59pm PST
Final Group Project	April 2, 2026 at 11:59pm PST

The final exam date will be posted partway through the course, once it is available. Final exams are held April 7 - 22 for the spring 2026 semester.

Course Structure, Assessments, and Grading

Statement about learning components

Lectures will not be recorded, but lecture slides will be posted on Brightspace. Homework assignments and the final group project are designed so that students practically learn how to evaluate the economies of developing countries working with real data.

Use of AI

No writing submissions are allowed to be generated by AI; however, students may consult AI tools to, for example, create code in order to programmatically create graphs.

Grading Scheme

Students will be required to submit individual homework assignments in addition to a final group project. At the start of term, students will be asked to form teams of 3-4 people in order to complete this group project. Students are also required to write a final exam. All assignments, the group project, and the final exam will be graded on a scale of 0 – 100. The breakdown of contributions towards the overall grade for the class is as follows:

Homework Assignment 1	10%
Homework Assignment 2	10%
Homework Assignment 3	10%
Final Group Project	50%
Final Exam	20%

Assignments may be submitted up to one week late for a 30% grade penalty (i.e. your score will be multiplied by 70%). Any assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a score of zero.

See here for additional information on UVic's grading policies:

<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/S1AAgoGuV?bc=true&bcCurrent=16%20-%20Grading&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies>

Mandatory/Essential Course Components

The final exam is essential and thus deferrable.

Students must complete the final exam and the final group project to pass the class.

Attendance of lectures is voluntary but highly encouraged. As there is no textbook for this class, it will be very difficult to pass the course without attending lectures.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Grading Scale

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%

F or N 0-49%

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

Course prerequisites/corequisites

- Complete all of the following
 - Complete 1 of:
 - [ECON103](#) - Principles of Microeconomics (1.5)
 - [ECON103C](#) - Introduction to Principles of Microeconomics and Financial Project Evaluation (1.5)
 - [ECON180](#) - Introduction to Economics and Financial Project Evaluation (1.5)
 - Complete all of:
 - [ECON104](#) - Principles of Macroeconomics (1.5)
 - Complete 1 of:
 - [ECON225](#) - Writing for Economists (1.5)
 - [ENGR240](#) - Technical Writing (1.5)

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

Brightspace

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.

All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently.

Missing Assessments

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#). In case you miss the final exam, fill in a [request for a deferral](#). I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions.

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Late Adds

Requests to add courses after the deadline are normally only approved under exceptional circumstances. Undergraduate Course Change forms for late adds require the signatures of both the instructor and the undergraduate advisor or the chair.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

The University reserves the right to use a plagiarism software to detect violations of academic integrity.

Appeals

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is:

1. Me, the course instructor
2. the Associate Chair: econassoc@uvic.ca
3. the Associate Dean of Academic Advising
4. the Senate.

If you're seeking a formal review of an assigned grade, you should also consult the regulations in the academic calendar regarding [review of an assigned grade](#).

[Include your process of dealing with grade inquiries on assignments and exams. E.g, "I only respond to grading inquiries in writing. You must file your question within 1 week of issuance of your grade and the release of the answer key. Do not approach me after class to discuss grading concerns."]

University Policies and Statements

Please note that this course is executed in a manner consistent with these University statements and policies.

- a. University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- b. [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- c. [Academic Integrity](#)
- d. [Academic Concession Regulations](#), [Academic Concession and Accommodation](#), Academic Accommodation – [Policy AC1205](#)
- e. [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- f. [Student Conduct](#)
- g. [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- h. [Accessibility](#)
- i. [Diversity / EDI](#)
- j. [Equity statement](#)
- k. [Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- l. Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)

Resources for students

- a. [Student wellness](#)
- b. [Centre for Accessible Learning](#)
- c. [UVic Learn Anywhere](#). UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
- d. [Library](#) resources
- e. Centre for Academic Communication ([CAC](#))
- f. Learning Strategies Program ([LSP](#))
- g. [Academic Advising](#)
- h. Economics Undergraduate Advising: ecadvice@uvic.ca
- i. [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- j. [International Student Advising](#)
- k. Indigenous student services ([ISS](#))
- l. [Student groups and resources](#) including UVic [Ombudsperson](#)

Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential SEL survey regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices are permitted to be used during the final exam.