

We acknowledge and respect the Lak^wanan (Songhees) and X^wsepsam (Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territories the University of Victoria stands, and the Lak^wanan and WSANEC Peoples whose historical relationships with this land continue to this day.

Course Outline
Econ 420-A01
Economic Development (CRN: 31285)
Summer 2025

Instructor: Alok Kumar

Office: BEC 334

Class: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. 14:30 -16:20, CLE A208

Office Hours: Monday, 11:00-13:00, BEC 334

Tel: 721-8543

Email: kumara@uvic.ca

T.A.: Mohammad Hossein Younesi

Office Hours: Tuesday, 16:30-17:30 (Between July 15th- August 12th), BEC 375

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Developing countries are characterized by low income, inadequate development of markets and low human capital attainment. In these countries, a large proportion of economic activities take place outside the formal sector (the informal economy). A significant section of individuals and households lack access to financial markets. This course will focus on analyzing and understanding the development process and the major factors hindering it. In particular, it will examine the role of human capital, urbanization, migration, informal sector and financial markets in the development process. A major focus will be on understanding the effects of government policies both micro and macro on the development process. As it is an advanced undergraduate course, students will be introduced to formal theoretical models both micro and macro and empirical methods used to analyze these issues. Students are expected to be comfortable with basic calculus (derivatives and constrained and unconstrained optimization) and statistical and econometric methods.

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn to:

- Characterize development process using cross-country time-series data (Penn World Table).
- Use regression methods to test the convergence process and implications of growth models (growth regressions).
- Use formal growth models to analyze the development process.
- Analyze the interaction among human capital, urbanization, migration, informal sector and development.
- Analyze the effects of public policies on the development process.
- Understand the causes and consequences of imperfections in financial markets.

Recommended Textbooks and Other Material:

Introduction to Economic Growth, C. I. Jones and D. Vollrath, Norton. This is a standard under-graduate text-book for economic growth. The 4th edition (2024) is the latest edition of the book, but you can use the 3rd edition as well. I will refer to this book below as J & V.

Development Economics: Theory and Practice, A. De Janvry and E. Sadoulet, 2nd Edition, 2021. An excellent treatment of development issues for advanced under-graduate students. I will refer to this book below as J & S.

Grading :

Grading will be based on a take-home assignment, three in-class exercises, a mid-term examination and a final examination. Weights: Take-Home Assignment – 15%, In-Class-Exercises – 25%, Mid-Term Examination– 20%, Final Examination – 40%.

Mid-Term Examination : Duration: 50 Minutes, 14:30-15:20, Wednesday, July 30th, in class. Regular class will take place following 10 minute break after the examination.

Final Examination: Duration: 1 Hour and 30 Minutes, Wednesday, August 20th (Last day of class), 14:30-16:00, in class.

Take-Home Assignment: Due Date: Friday, 1st August. To be submitted in class as a hard copy. Email submissions will not be accepted. I will post this assignment on **Brightspace** at least two weeks before the due date. The take-home assignment must be **properly stapled and typed**. Late submissions will not be marked.

In-Class Exercises: In-class exercises must be done in class on the due dates given below. Students will get 30 minutes to complete these exercises towards the end of class. These exercises will be set such that they can normally be done within 20 minutes, so that every student has sufficient time to answer them. I will post a set of questions on the **Brightspace** one week in advance on which in-class exercises will be based. This will allow students ample time to prepare for these questions. Students will be asked to answer a sub-set of these questions in class. Grades for in-class exercises will be based on the **best 2 out of 3**.

Due Dates:

1st in-class exercise: Wednesday, 23rd July

2nd in-class exercise: Wednesday, 6th August

3rd in-class exercise: Wednesday, 13th August

Important Remarks

1. If you miss the take-home assignment or any in-class exercises no make-up assignment/exercises will be given.
2. The use of AI is not permitted for doing take-home assignment. Should you violate this rule, you will have violated UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity available at
https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/future/grad/index.php#/policy/BJujesM_E and a complaint against you under this policy will be filed accordingly.
3. The assignment and in-class exercises will help you in learning the subject and prepare for examinations. However, they are not sufficient to do well in examinations and have a good grasp of the course material. Students are expected to go through all the reading material and regularly attend the lectures.

4. In order to pass this course students must attempt the final examination and mid-term examination. All examinations will be **closed-book** examinations.

Topics

1. **Introduction** Lecture Slides
2. **Math Preliminaries** Lecture Slides
3. **Solow Growth Model** Chapter 2 of J & V (3rd or 4th ed.) and Lecture Slides
4. **Convergence and Growth** Chapter 3 of J & V (3rd or 4th ed.) and Lecture Slides
5. **Technology Diffusion, Openness and Development** Chapter 7 (6) of J & V 4th ed. (3rd ed.) and Lecture Slides. The chapter number in bracket refers to the chapter number in the 3rd edition.
6. **Institutions and Development** Chapter 8 (7) of J & V 4th ed. (3rd ed.) and Lecture Slides
7. **Human Capital** J & S Chapter 17 and Lecture Slides
8. **Urbanization and Migration** J & S Chapter 12 and Lecture Slides
9. **Financial Markets and Development** J & S Chapter 13 and Lecture Slides
10. **Effectiveness of Governance and Development** J & S Chapter 21 and Lecture Slides

Some Important Comments

1. **Grade Concerns:** Students who have questions or concerns regarding their grade should discuss with me during office hours. **All concerns must be brought to my attention no later than one week after the graded material was returned.** After one week, any assigned grade is final.
2. **Failed Exams:** Failed exams cannot be retaken and no extra work can be done to improve your grade.

3. **Make-Up Mid-Term Exam:** If a student misses the midterm examination due to health reasons, family afflictions or other unforeseen circumstances, it must write the make-up mid-term examination. The make-up examination will be conducted on **Monday, 11th August** between 11:00-11:50 in BEC 355. A student wishing to write the mid-term examination must fill and submit the **in-course concession form** and email it to me at *kumara@uvic.ca*. The in-course concession form is available at [https : //www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic – concessions – accommodations/request – for – academic – concession/forms/uvic_undergraduate_request_for_in – course_extension.pdf](https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/forms/uvic_undergraduate_request_for_in-course_extension.pdf). Only those students whose requests have been approved by me will be able to write the make-up exam.

In the event that you miss the make-up exam due to illness or family affliction or other unforeseen circumstances, please consult the Academic Concessions portion of the Registrar's website to determine whether you qualify for a late drop or a withdrawal under extenuating circumstances.

4. **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students must abide by UVic academic regulations and observe standards of scholarly integrity (no plagiarism or cheating). Students who are found to have engaged in unethical academic behavior are subject to penalty by the University. The Library web-site has an excellent description of plagiarism which you may wish to consult [http : //library.uvic.ca/site/lib/ instruction/cite/plagiarism.html](http://library.uvic.ca/site/lib/instruction/cite/plagiarism.html).

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

6. **Policy on Inclusivity and Diversity:** The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

7. **Travel Plans:** Students are advised not to make 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 (see the University Calendar). There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

8. **Letter Grading:** Numerical score (%) equivalencies used in the Department are as follows:

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

For the grading scale and expectations, please see [http : //web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/evaluation.html#](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/evaluation.html#).

9. **DEF Grade:** Students who have not completed all course requirements at the time of grade submission are advised to obtain a *Request for Academic Concession* form for a DEF grade.

10. **Course Policies:** The University and the Departmental course policies can be found at

[https : //www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/undergraduate-courses/course-policies-4x/index.php](https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/undergraduate-courses/course-policies-4x/index.php).

This document summarizes departmental and university policies on academic concessions, academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating), attendance, grading, inclusivity and diversity, late adds, late assignments, repeating courses, review of an assigned grade, students with a disability, term assignments and debarment from exams, end-of-term travel plans, waitlists, and sexualized violence prevention and response.

11. **E-Mails:** 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 classes or office hours. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should start off with a salutation (e.g. Dear) include full sentences and conclude with a signature that includes your name (e.g. Sincerely, your full name) and student number (V#). Text message lingo should not be used.

12. It is the responsibility of students to check their registration status and keep it up to date.

13. **Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response:** UVIC takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting

www.uvic.ca/svp . If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.

14. From time to time there will be other announcements and they will be posted on BRIGHTSPACE. It is the responsibility of students to visit BRIGHTSPACE regularly.

Important Note: I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) 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. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.