



University of Victoria

Department of Economics
ECONOMICS 320: Economic Development
CRN 21075

Winter Session, Second Term, 2023, Section A02

LECTURES: Mondays and Thursdays: 2:30 pm – 3:50 pm in David Strong C118
(Occasionally – might record a lecture instead of an in-person class).

Instructor:

Name: Dr. Abubakr Ayesh

Office: BEC 314

Email: abubakrayesh@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4 – 5 pm and Fridays 3 - 4 pm, or by appointment.

TAs:

Name: Papa Yaw Owusu

Email: powusu@uvic.ca

Office Hours: As required

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT: We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

MENTAL HEALTH: A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Diminished mental health can interfere with optimal academic performance. Do your best to engage in self-care and maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. The source of symptoms might be related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. **The UVic Student Wellness Centre** provides cost-free and confidential mental health services to help you manage personal challenges that impact your emotional or academic well-being.

OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a sound understanding of the issues that plague developing economies.
- Build student capacity to “measure” development and analyze development of different economies.
- Analyze evidence available on how these complicates issues can be solved.
- Explore the themes relevant to development economics in historical and contemporary world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand why development economics is a separate discipline in itself and how developing economies differ from the developed world.
- Use metrics and criterion for comparing historical economic development.
- Gain a theoretical understanding of poverty and inequality and use methods for calculating inequality.
- Learn about historical trends and changes in population growth.
- Apply the economic concepts of pricing, demand and supply to Education and Health in developing countries.
- Understand how urbanization and labor markets work in developing countries.
- Analyze the evidence available on solving these issues.
- Develop a nuanced understanding of issues faced by developing economies and the complexity of solving these issues – rather than a simplistic general set of problems of the developing world as discussed in the popular media.

IMPORTANT DATES:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Class begins | Jan 09, 2023 |
| • Last day to drop with 100% refund | Jan 22, 2023 |
| • Last day to add a course | Jan 25, 2023 |
| • Last day to drop with 100% refund | Feb 12, 2023 |
| • Classes end (except final exam) | April 06, 2023 |
| • Final Exam | TBD by University |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Todaro, M.P. and S.C. Smith, *Economic Development*, thirteenth edition, Pearson, Boston.

Note: the twelfth edition will suffice as well.

The textbook will cover most of the topics discussed in class, but lectures may also be based on readings from other books. Specifically, I will also use materials from the following two textbooks:

(a) Schaffner, J., *Development Economics: Theory, Empirical Research and Policy Analysis*, Wiley, Hoboken.

(b) Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Public Affairs.

Note: these textbooks are optional and not required.

There will be additional readings from articles and chapters from sources and these materials may be examinable. Students are expected to attend lectures and be an active participant in class discussions.

CLASS STRUCTURE: I will primarily use overheads and blackboard during the class, with occasional in-class activity. A copy of the class overheads will be available via BrightSpace as pdf files. You will also be able to download assigned work from BrightSpace. BrightSpace will also contain other useful external links.

Please note that the overheads do not adequately cover the course material, nor do they reflect all that is discussed in class. They highlight some of the key concepts covered in the lectures and should not be relied on as the sole source material. Reading the relevant sections of the textbook and assigned readings as well as attending lectures regularly is necessary for success in this course.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Briefing Notes:	13%, 10% and 7% (for a total of 30%)
In-Class Exercises:	10%
Midterm:	20%.
Final Exam:	40%.

BRIEFING NOTES (3): The briefing notes are designed to serve two main purposes. They should provide you with an opportunity to engage in some independent research related to some of the topics covered in this course, and to practice and improve your writing skills.

Topics and directions for briefing notes will be posted on **January 23rd**, **February 9th** and **March 13th**. If there is any change to this based on progress during the term, it will be discussed in class and the new date(s) will be posted on BrightSpace.

Please note that:

- You will have one week to complete each briefing note.
- While I encourage group learning, the briefing notes that you submit **must be** your own independent work. Otherwise, you will get a zero.
- Marks will be deducted if your briefing note is deficient in English. The Centre for Academic Communication <https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/> can help you with your writing.
- Briefing notes will be due at class time on the submission date. You can submit them in class or you can submit them electronically via BrightSpace. In order to ensure that your grade gets properly recorded, please provide clearly your name, student number and course number on the front page of your assignment.
- Normally no late work will be accepted. If you miss a briefing note due to medical reasons, and can provide me with an appropriate medical certificate, the weight of the uncompleted work will then be reassigned equally to the other briefing notes. Please contact me as soon as you know that you cannot submit a briefing note on time due to medical reasons.

IN-CLASS EXERCISES: There will be at least five in-class exercises that will be randomly undertaken during class. These are to encourage active learning and to offer opportunities to engage with the course material as well as for you (and me) to assess your understanding. These should help you prepare for your exams as well.

MIDTERM TEST: This test is scheduled for **March 2nd** and will be held during regular class hours in David Strong C118.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Time and venue will be decided by the University.

LETTER GRADES: All assessment in this course will be assigned a numerical score. Each will then be appropriately weighted to give a total score for the course out of a possible 100%. The following, based on the University's undergraduate grading scale will be used. For more details, please see [University Grading Schedule](#).

Undergraduate Grading Scale		
Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Percentage *
A+	9	90 – 100
A	8	85 – 89
A-	7	80 – 84
An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.		
B+	6	77 – 79
B	5	73 – 76
B-	4	70 – 72
A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.		
C+	3	65 – 69
C	2	60 – 64
A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.		
D	1	50 – 59
A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.		

- Note that E grades will not be assigned.

COURSE OUTLINE: The relevant chapters from the textbook corresponding to each topic are provided next to each topic listed below. However, please note that depending on the topic, parts of the lecture may be based on other sources (details will be provided in class).

- (i) Introduction: Meaning and Measurement of “Development” (Todaro & Smith, Chp 1 & Chp 2).
- (ii) Comparative Economic Development (Todaro & Smith, Chp 2).
- (iii) Poverty, Inequality and Development (Todaro & Smith, Chp 5).
- (iv) Population and Development (Todaro & Smith, Chp 6).
- (v) Education and Health in Economic Development (Todaro & Smith, Chp 8).
- (vi) Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration (Todaro & Smith, Chp 7)

Please note that due to time constraint some topic(s) or parts of topic(s) may not be covered. The material not covered will not be examinable.

BRIGHTSPACE: BrightSpace will be used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. All announcements and material relevant to this course will be posted in BrightSpace. Students are advised to check frequently.

E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE: I encourage you to discuss any issue(s) in the class over e-mail (or in-person). You should expect me to respond to you within 2 business days (feel free to re-send the email if I don’t get back in this timeframe). However, emails should be limited to critical matters (such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness etc.), and should include the course number in the subject line. Text message lingo should not be used.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES): 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 the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed 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.

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

COURSE POLICIES: This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

EXAMINATIONS: Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#).

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. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

WAITLIST POLICY: 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 show up in the first seven 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.

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.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

All lecture notes and course materials that I make available to the class including exams, assignments and quizzes are my intellectual property, and are made available to students for instructional purposes only. Please note that students may not distribute my lecture notes or any other course related material without my permission, and that to do so, through note-sharing sites or other means, violates the Policy on Academic Integrity.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUITY AND FAIRNESS: The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. See [General University Policies](#)

ACCESSIBILITY: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

ONLINE CONDUCT: The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.

Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources, and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy. To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca