



Department of Economics and Finance

**ECON*4830
Economic Development
Fall 2013**



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Office Hours: M, W 1:00 – 2:00 in MacK 713.

Lectures: TT 1:00 – 2:20, in Room MacK 234

It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policies regarding academic misconduct, e-mail communication, maintaining copies of out-of class assignments, what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement and the drop date for this semester. To better understand these policies, visit:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/economics/node/1115>

1. Course Description

The objective of the course is to get an in-depth understanding of selected topics in development economics. The class material consists of original research papers that appeared in major economics journals. Most of these papers are quite recent and represent up-to-date research. The emphasis of the course is to combine theoretical and empirical research. It is important not only to recognize the results of a research paper but also to understand how this result is obtained. This means for students who have limited skills in mathematics and statistics that they will have to spend extra effort to be successful in this course. There are two in-class midterms, a final exam, and a question and answer task that count towards the final mark.

The following topics are covered:

- Understanding World Inequality and Poverty
- Theories of Economic Growth and Development: Neoclassical Growth Theory, Endogenous Growth Theory, and Models on Poverty Traps.
- Understanding the Role of Government in Developing Countries
- The Debate on the Role of Foreign Aid for Development

The class does not use a text as a requirement. Students interested in a textbook as an additional source of information can contact me for recommendations.

More information about this course, which includes a *detailed course plan*, can be found on the class web-site at CourseLink.

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/>

2. The Department of Economics & Finance *Learning Objectives (skills and knowledge competencies)* for this course:

Skills

- Problem Solving in a Real World Context (e.g., using models to explain income differences across countries)
- Empirical testing in a Real World Context (e.g., gather data to describe income levels, inequality, investments, etc. across countries)
- Analytical Problem Solving

Knowledge

- Microeconomic Modeling (supply and demand, market forces, efficient and inefficient markets, etc.)
- Macroeconomic Modeling (economic growth; unemployment and informal sector)
- Statistical and Econometric Methodology (including basic data analysis, sampling, probability, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, regression analysis, robustness)

3. Readings and Materials

A list of papers discussed in class is required. You need a *hardcopy* of each paper since exams are open book exams. You can print the papers off the class web site at CourseLink. Since exams are open-book exams, it is very important that you know the papers very well. Therefore, it is critical to read papers before class and bring them to class when we discuss them so you can make notes directly on the hard copy.

4. Question- and Answer-Task

For each class, students are required to post a question and an answer to a question posted by another student related to the reading due for that class. Questions need to be posted **one day before class by 1pm, sharp**, on the class website at CourseLink. I ask students not to answer questions that were posted after that deadline. Each student posting a question is required to post one answer to a question as follows: The first student to post a question answers the second question posted. The second student to post a question answers the first question posted. The third student to post a question answers the fourth posted question. The fourth student to post a question answers the third posted question. Etc. Answers need to be **posted by 10am, sharp, on the day of class**. The question task counts for 10%, and the answer task count for 10% towards your final mark. The number and quality of the questions and answers will be assessed. In order to get full marks for the number of questions, you need to post 18 questions out of the 20 papers discussed in class. Bring your posted answers to class, as we will discuss a selection of posted questions in each class.

5. Requirements

2 midterm exams in class, 1 final exam, participation in Question- and Answer Task:

- Midterm 1: October 4, in class.
- Midterm 2: October 31, in class.
- Final: Dec. 3rd, from 8:30-10:30 am

The three exams count together 80% with equal weights. All exams are open-book exams. The answer- and question-task count for 20% towards your final mark.

6. Important Note

If you miss to post a question and/or answer in the Question- and Answer-Task, no accommodation is granted, no matter the circumstances. Note that you can miss two question-answer tasks without penalty.

In order to sign up for this class, you must assure that you do not have a conflict with any of the exams. If you miss one of the midterms, the missing midterm will count as 0% in the overall grade according to the weights indicated above unless suitable documentation is presented. In case you have a legitimate reason for missing a midterm (upon presentation of suitable documentation), the weight of the missed midterm (80%/3) is distributed equally over the remaining two exams.

You will be asked to complete an evaluation of this course at some time during the last two weeks of the semester. The Department of Economics policy regarding the conduct and use of these evaluations will be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/economics/academics/courses/course-evaluation>