

Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

Course Outline

AP ECON 3550

Fall 2020

COURSE TITLE: Economic Growth and Development

1. Course Instructor Contact:

Name: Dr Shadab Qaiser

Office: 1075 Vari Hall

Virtual Office Hours: TBA

Email: gaisers@yorku.ca

2. Course Webpage:

<https://moodle.yorku.ca> **Moodle** course website will be used for posting announcements, weekly pre-recorded lectures, submitting assigned assignment set and term paper/take home final exam, and for some interesting links.

3. Course Format and prerecorded Lectures:

Please note that this is a course that depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. **The class lectures will be prerecorded and posted on the Moodle course website on a weekly basis according to the course outline.** I will hold virtual office hours through Zoom to answer any course related questions and there will be no live lecturing.

4. Teaching Assistant Information: TBA

5. Course Description:

This course studies the economic problems of poor countries and poor communities. Explores the meaning of development by considering the characteristics of economic underdevelopment, poverty, income and wealth distribution, rural versus urban development, population growth, and unemployment and migration. Additional topics include theories of development, growth and technological change, strategies for environmentally sustainable development, education, and health. Prerequisites: AP/ECON

1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents. Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON 3920 3.00, AP/ECON 3559 3.00.

6. Course Learning Objectives:

1. Introduce you to the fields and tools of Development Economics.
2. Explores the meaning of development by considering the characteristics of economic underdevelopment, poverty, income and wealth distribution, rural versus urban development.
3. Explore the philosophical, theoretical and policy oriented research in development economics.
4. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of alternative development strategies in the light of country experience.
5. Extend your understanding of economic theory through its application in less developed country settings.
6. Explore your knowledge of structural change, dual economies, technical and Institutional change, strategies for environmentally sustainable development, education, and health.

7. Recommended Text Book:

Michael Todaro and Stephen Smith, Economic Development, 12th Edition (Pearson Addison Wesley)

You can also use old editions of this text book which are available at lower prices.

Other Recommended Text Book:

Dwight Perkins, Steven Radelet, and David Lindauer, Economics of Development, (New York: W.W.Norton & Company), any edition is fine.

8. Course Evaluation:

Online Assignment Set 25% of course grade (Uploaded on Moodle on Wed Oct 14, 2020 and due on Sat Oct 24, 2020)

Term Paper 30% of course grade (Due on Nov 18, 2020, the guidelines for term paper will be posted later on Moodle)

Take home Final Exam 45% of course grade. (Cumulative covering all course material and assigned during the official final exam period (December 9 – 23))

There is no makeup for online assignment set and term paper. Students who missed the online assignment set or term paper will have the weight automatically transferred to their take home final exam. **Students will be required to work individually on the assigned online assignment set / term paper and**

take home final exam. The take home final exam will be cumulative and will cover all materials covered in the course. Students absent from the final examination and requesting for deferred standing must follow the guidelines for Deferred Standing of the Department of Economics at York University.

9. Course Syllabus and selected topics to be covered:

Theoretical Section: The following topics will be covered in the theoretical section:

1. Introduction: Economics, Institution and Development, Measuring Development: The major topics included in this section are a classification of countries according to economic and social indicators, an overview of the common development problems faced by many developing countries, few case studies of the developing countries (Todaro & Smith Chs. 1,2)

2. Theories and Models of Development: We will do historic overview of the classic development theories. The key features of each theory along with a discussion of the major contributions and limitations. We will cover basic development models during the lectures (Todaro & Smith Ch 3)

Applied Issues and Policies in Development Economics: This section will be our major focus of attention. We will focus on the current policy issues in development economics. The following topics will be covered:

1. Poverty, Inequality and Development: We will discuss the extent of poverty and inequality in LDCs, growth versus income distribution, benefits of economic growth, policies to reduce income inequalities and poverty (Todaro & Smith Ch, 5)

2. Financial Markets and Economic Development: We will study the role of financial markets in promoting Economic Development. We will use the recent contributions by Ross Levine in his series of articles on financial Development and Economic Development. (References will be posted on course website)

3. Human capital: Education and Health: We will cover health and Education in this section (Todaro and Smith Ch.8)

5. Environment and Development: We will cover recent developments in sustainable development literature. (Todaro & Smith Ch. 10)

6. Clean energy technologies and sustainable growth (References will be posted on course website)

10. Intellectual property notice

All materials prepared for **Econ 3550** at York University are the intellectual property of the instructor. This can include but is not limited to the following material: lecture notes, handouts and recordings; assignment handouts and instructions; spoken and written presentations; audio and video recordings; PowerPoint slides; and questions and/or solution sets for assignments, quizzes, tests and final exams.

Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course. As a student in this course, you may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any of this work without the instructor's express permission. Unauthorized or commercial use of these materials is strictly prohibited. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course, or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website, or online sharing of course material with people outside of the course) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

11. Other useful resources: Following World Development Reports and their critical analysis will be used in lectures notes:

World Development Report: Mind, Society and Behavior
World Development Report: Governance
World Development Report: Jobs
Global Monitoring Report 2015-2016
World Development Report: Digital Dividends
World Development Report: Human Development Index

Following are important data sources that will be used in lectures:

World Bank Development Data and Statistics (www.worldbank.org/data/)
IMF World Economic Outlook (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm>)
United Nations Economic and Social Development (www.un.org/ecosocdev/)
United Nations Statistics Division (unstats.un.org/unsd/)
Human Development Report (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>)

List of important Journals, references that will be used in lecture notes:

Journal of Economic Growth
Journal of Economic Literature
Journal of Development Economics
Journal of Development Studies
World Development
Quarterly Journal of Economics
World Bank Economic Review
American Economic Review
Handbook of Economic Growth
The Journal of Political Economy
The Journal of Economic Perspectives

Important Dates

	Fall Term 2020
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct 6
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov 6
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript)	Nov 7 – Dec 8

Important Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage](#).

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures is located on the [York University Senate webpage](#). As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. More information on academic integrity for students can be found on the [York Academic Integrity Website](#).
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants located using the [Senate Policy Research Involving Human Participants link](#)
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities can be accessed using the [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities link](#).
- Information on student conduct standards can be reviewed on the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage](#).

Students requiring religious accommodation should review the Religious Accommodations Guidelines using the [Religious Observance link](#)