

**Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies  
Department of Economics  
York University**

**Course:** ECON 3559M: Economic Growth and Development

**Course Webpage:** <https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/course/view.php?id=4380>

**Term:** Winter 2021

**Prerequisite / Co-requisite:** AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents.

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**Course Director**

Name: Sadia Mariam Malik  
Office Hours: Wednesdays: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Office hours will be held virtually via Zoom. The link to Zoom Meeting will be posted on course webpage  
Email: [smmalik@yorku.ca](mailto:smmalik@yorku.ca)

**Time and Location**

Class Meeting Time: Wednesdays (11:30 am - 2:30 pm)  
Class Location: Live via zoom. The link to Zoom Meeting will be posted on course webpage  
(All live lectures will be recorded and posted on Moodle after each class)

**Technical requirements for taking the course:**

Please note that this is an online course. The entire course, including the submission of assignments, participation/discussion and test-taking, will take place on the course's Moodle. You will need a computer with a RELIABLE internet connection. Phones and tablets WILL NOT WORK for the test and final exam.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)  
[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)  
[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)  
[Computing for Students Website](#)  
[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

**Course Format and 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 entire course will be run synchronously where lectures will be delivered live at the scheduled lecture time and recorded.** If you prefer, please feel free to not show your video and mute your microphone. The lecture recordings will be posted after the class to the Moodle website. Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eclass, Zoom, etc.)

through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director as well as with one another.

Students shall note the following:

Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom. If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session. The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.

## **Expanded Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the meaning and scope of development and its relationship with economic growth. Both classical and contemporary approaches to Development Theory will be examined. Additional topics will include poverty, inequality, human development, population growth, urbanization, environment, and strategies for sustainable development. The role of institutions as deep structural factor in development will also be examined.

## **Organization of the Course**

- This course is based upon interactive lectures by the instructor. The lectures may be supplemented by documentaries and videos. The lectures will serve to enrich, clarify, and illustrate crucial issues from the assigned topics and readings. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and are encouraged to ask questions.
- In addition to specific chapters from the text book, I will assign readings that will include journal articles and reports. Students are expected to stay on top of their readings by reading the assigned papers/chapters before coming to class.
- Students are also expected to read the relevant national and international newspapers and magazines to keep themselves abreast of the current international affairs.

## **Course Objectives**

### **(1) Brief statement of the purpose:**

The purpose of the course is to assist students in understanding the multidimensionality of the concept of development and its relevance to promoting peace, solidarity, and human wellbeing across the globe. Students will be introduced to key development issues facing the developing world and the challenges that keep these countries in the trap of underdevelopment. Special emphasis will be given to the role of economic, political, and social institutions in poor development outcomes. Students will be able to identify both classical and contemporary theories of economic growth and development. They will also learn about the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations and the challenges faced by the developing countries in meeting these goals.

### **(2) Learning outcomes:**

**At the end of the course, students will be able to:**

- Describe the meaning of development through various approaches to define and measure it.
- Understand the relationship between economic growth and development.
- Identify and describe both classical and contemporary theories of development.
- Answer the crucial question of why some countries are poor and others rich and what explains the disparity between the rich and poor both within and across countries.
- Critically analyze academic research, policy reports, and data on development indicators in order to understand the process of development and the diversity in the development experience of countries.
- Understand the role and scope of government in promoting development.

- Understand the challenges and ways to meet sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.
- Propose solutions for development on the basis of judgement built on relevant analytical frameworks and statistical evidence.
- Communicate research findings in both oral and written format clearly and effectively.

## Course Text / Readings

### Required Text:

Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, Economic Development (10th or 11th editions), Pearson, 2008 or 2012. Additional readings will be recommended during the course.

Optional Text: Economics of Development by Perkins Radelet Lindauer Block

## Tentative List of Topics

Introduction: What do we mean by development?

Comparative economic development

Theories and approaches to economic growth and development

Markets and the role of state

Poverty, inequality, and development

Population growth and economic development

Human development: education and health

Agricultural transformation and rural development

Urbanization and rural-urban migration

Environment and development

Institutions and development

## Evaluation

The evaluation of your performance in this course will be based on the following components. The contribution of each of these in the final grades will be as under:

Midterm	30%
Final Exam	40%
Term Paper	25%
Class participation	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>)

**Exams:** The midterm exam will be held during class time on Wednesday **February 24, 2021** during the scheduled class time. The exam will consist of descriptive questions requiring short answers. The final exam will be held during April 14-28. The exact date will be set by the registrar's office and will be communicated later.

**Term Paper:** Students are expected to select one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in 2015 (see <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>) and write a 10-15 pages long (including graphs, charts and bibliography) research paper. Students may select any one **developing** country and analyse the progress and challenges in achieving the selected goal. Developing countries

include low income, lower middle income and upper middle income countries, according to the World Bank classification system (<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>) Students are also expected to propose policy recommendations on the basis of their research. Additional guidelines for the paper will be provided separately.

**Term paper Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, term paper for this course must be submitted on Eclass via Turnitin, a commercial Internet-based search service supported by York University (<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/turnitin-students.htm>).

Further information regarding Turnitin can be found on York University website: [http://moodle.info.yorku.ca/student\\_resources/students/documentation/submitting\\_a\\_turnitin\\_assignment/](http://moodle.info.yorku.ca/student_resources/students/documentation/submitting_a_turnitin_assignment/)

**The deadline to submit the term paper is April 12, 2021.**

**Lateness Penalty:** Assignment received later than the due date will be penalized via reduction in total marks received on the term paper by one percentage point per day over the due date. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter).

**Missed Tests:** No make-up exams will be given for a missed midterm exam. If for any reason you miss a midterm, you will need to provide proper documentation to support the reason you missed the exam, in order for me to transfer the weight of your midterm towards your final exam.

In case you miss the final exam, you will be allowed to write a deferred exam only by completing the *Deferred Standing Agreement Form* and by providing a completed Registrar's Office Attending Physician's Statement.

## OTHER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

### International Development Resources on the Internet:

#### 1) International Development Agencies

The World Bank: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

The International Monetary Fund: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

The United Nations Development Program: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Project: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

Food and Agricultural Organization: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

The United Nations Children's Fund: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

The World Health Organization: [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)

#### 2) Independent Research Organizations/ Think Tanks

The Center for Global Development: [www.cgdev.org](http://www.cgdev.org)

The EarthInstitute at Columbia University: [www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu](http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu)

The Overseas Development Institute: [www.odi.org.uk](http://www.odi.org.uk)

The World Institute for Development Economics Research: [www.wider.unu.edu](http://www.wider.unu.edu)

## IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - <http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust2012.pdf>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

### **Course ADD/Drop Deadlines**

	<b>Winter Term 2021</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan. 25
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Feb. 8
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	March 12
<b>Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)</b>	March 13 – April 12

**\*\*Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course:** <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>