

AP/ECON 3569 (cross-listed as AP/PPAS 3569) 3.0 M
Economic Policy in Developing Countries

Start date: January 11, 2021 (Note: no class on February 15 – Family Day, University closed)

Time: Mondays 7-10 PM Location: Zoom (links provided on eClass)

**Note: Zoom sessions will start at 6:45PM to allow for informal socializing prior to class.
Class will start at 7 PM sharp – please make sure to login on time.**

Note: If you have a documented disability at York that you wish to have accommodated in this course, please inform me immediately.

Office Hours: by appointment - ***please email to request an appointment***
E-mail: akimakov@yorku.ca Course website: eClass (aka Moodle previously)

Course description:

Examines policy issues arising from development planning. Topics include agriculture versus industry, international trade, monetary and fiscal policies, foreign investment, foreign aid and self-reliance, and global issues. Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents. Course credit exclusions: AP/ECON 3560 3.00, AP/PPAS 3560 3.00.

Expected learning outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and analyze policy challenges facing less developed countries.
- Develop context-dependent policy recommendations conducive to economic growth and development.
- Evaluate alternative policy frameworks in terms of economic efficiency, equity as well as practical feasibility.
- Articulate policy research questions, search the literature and compile a relevant bibliography.
- Communicate research findings in both oral and written format clearly and effectively.

Teaching Methodology:

This course is delivered entirely on-line/remotely. Although it is delivered on-line, it aims to replicate a classroom experience through live video lectures and discussions via Zoom during scheduled class time and via interactive forums on the eClass course website.

About eClass and Zoom

eClass (previously Moodle) is the learning platform used by York University to allow us to have a personalized learning platform/environment for our course. The site allows us to access all the materials, such as slide decks, assignments and videos, as well as a secure site for us to upload student work for assessment.

Zoom is a free video conferencing software app that allows us to engage virtually for video, presentations, group work and chat rooms. More detail about these systems will be shared at the beginning of the course. 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, but make sure to inform the course director accordingly.

- 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.

You can find links to resources for students about online learning and eClass at:

<https://going-digital.laps.yorku.ca/student-resources/>

Evaluation:

Quiz and take-home test 1: 20% (on February 8 via eClass)

Quiz and take-home test 2: 20% (on March 29 via eClass)

Essay: 45%

- Research proposal and bibliography 15% (due on February 12 or earlier via eClass)
- Final paper 30% (due on April 12 via eClass)

Research presentation: 10% (on March 22 or April 5 or earlier, schedule through eClass)

Peer to peer feedback on presentations: 5% (provided during class or via eClass forum)

Important to note:

- The weights of the grade components will not be changed under any circumstances.
- Late submissions will carry a 5% point penalty per day.
- If you do not make a research presentation by the April 5 deadline, you will receive 0% for this grade component. Presentations need to be scheduled with at least one week advance notice.
- All students are expected to familiarize themselves with and adhere to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty at: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>
- The grading scheme for the course conforms to the standard system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.).
- Last date to drop the course without receiving a grade is March 12, 2021.
- Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from the course and receive a “W” or “Withdrawn” notation on the transcript) is: March 13 - April 12, 2021. See policy at: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>
- Course add/drop deadlines:

WINTER (W)

Last date to add a course **without permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)

Jan. 25

Last date to add a course **with permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)

Feb. 8

Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)

March 12

Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)

March 13 -
April 12

Tests:

Students will be responsible for the material presented at the lectures and in the required readings. For the tests you should be able to understand and interpret models and concepts in the context of real world experience and empirical evidence.

Each test will consist of three roughly equally weighed parts: quiz with multiple choice questions, problem solving and essay-type questions.

Research proposal, essay and class presentation on the same developmental topic of your choice:

- The proposal should be ½-1 page long. In addition to that you should provide min. 10 references based on your literature search on the subject matter.
- Expected length of essay: 6-8 pages (excluding reference list), font 12, single or 1 ½ line spacing
- Expected length of presentation: 5 slides (excluding title slide and references), 8 minutes.

The objective of these components is to encourage student interest in current issues while serving as a demonstration of the applicability of the theoretical tools. The assignments aim to improve students' writing and presentation skills. See the course website under Assignments for more detailed guidelines for these grade components. You can also utilize SPARK – Student Papers and Academic Research Kit at: <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/> and the Writing Centre at: <https://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/>

Required Text:

Perkins, Radelet, Lindauer, Block (2012). *Economics of Development*, 7th edition, W.W. Norton & Company.

Note: You can also use an older edition of the textbook, but you need to be aware that the order of chapters/topics in the book may have changed and there might be some new information in the 7th edition that you will need to account for. Some Suggested Resources available online:

York University Libraries	http://www.library.yorku.ca/
(Research Guides, eResources, data, workshops, one-on-one research help, etc.)	
World Bank	www.worldbank.org
International Monetary Fund	www.imf.org
OECD	www.oecd.org
EBRD	www.ebrd.org
Inter-American Development Bank	www.iadb.org
United Nations	www.un.org
World Trade Organization	www.wto.org
Google Public Data	https://www.google.com/publicdata/directory

Outline

Week 1

Introduction to Development and Investment and Savings

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapters 1 and 10.

Week 2

Fiscal Policy

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 11.

Week 3

Financial Development and Inflation

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 12.

Suggested Reading:

Hardy, Daniel, Paul Holden, and Vassili Prokopenko (2002): "Microfinance Institutions and Public Policy". IMF WP/02/159.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2002/wp02159.pdf>

Week 4

Foreign Debt and Financial Crises

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 13.

Suggested Reading:

Hausmann, Ricardo (1999): "Currencies: Should There Be Five or One Hundred and Five?" Foreign Policy, No. 116 (Autumn, 1999), pp. 65-79.

Week 5 (February 8)

Quiz and test 1 (no lecture)

Week 6

Managing Short-Run Crises in an Open Economy and post-test review

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 15.

Week 7

Foreign Aid

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 14.

Week 8

Agriculture and Development

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 16 and 17.

Suggested Reading:

Schiff, Maurice and Alberto Valdes (1998): "Agriculture and the Macroeconomy", World Bank WPS 1967, August 1998.

Week 9

Trade and Development

Required reading: Economics of Development, Chapter 18 and 19.

Suggested reading:

Mitchell, Donald (2004): "Sugar policies opportunity for change," World Bank WPS 3222.

Week 10 (March 22)

Pre-test review and research presentations

Week 11 (March 29)

Quiz and Test 2 (no lecture)

Week 12 (April 5)

Research presentations, Q&A for final paper submissions