

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University
AP/ECON 3559 3.0 A: Economic Growth & Development (Writing) [Fall 2023]
Course Outline

1.1 Course Webpage

eClass (Moodle): eclass.yorku.ca (available by the first day of Fall semester, Sep 6, 2023).

1.2 Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents.

Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON 3920 3.00, AP/ECON 3550 3.00.

1.3 Course Instructor/Contact

Instructor: Dr. Simin Seury, Department of Economics, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, CANADA. Phone: N/A. Email: seury@yorku.ca

Office Hours: Online. Wednesdays 13:00 – 14:00 (Zoom link will be available in eClass)

1.4 Lecture (Time/Location/Delivery Mode)

Lecture: **Tuesdays 14:30-17:30 (EST). Room: YK HNE 035**

Delivery: In-person. Students should be available during these hours for in-person live and synchronous lectures/tests/presentations and/or other synchronous activities.

Time-zones: Times for all activities, e.g., lectures, tests/exams, due dates, are according to **local Toronto time (EST)**. (Errors in calculations are not an acceptable reason to miss tests/deadlines).

2.1 Course Description

This course is an introduction to development economics, in which we will study economic issues relating to less developed and developing economies. We will explore the meaning of development by considering the characteristics of economic underdevelopment, poverty, income inequality, population growth, unemployment, and migration. Additional topics include theories of development and growth, environmental degradation, sustainable development, human capital development, international trade, development strategies, and development policymaking.

Course Learning Objectives

- Learning and using economic theories and concepts to assess human development issues in less developed and developing countries.
- Critically analyze the effects of development policies on individual and social wellbeing.
- Study the referred materials in-depth (including the textbook chapters, media clips, case studies, and research papers). Clearly demonstrate in your writing that you have a thorough understanding of the course topics.

2.2 Course Text / Readings

Economic Development, by Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith (any edition).

Should you intend to purchase any of the above texts, course packages for the latest editions are available from York University bookstore.

I would assign several materials from other sources for each topic chronologically. Links (free access) for these will be available in eClass.

2.3. Tentative Topics

1. Growth and Development: Global and comparative perspectives. Theories and models.
2. Poverty, Inequality, and Development
3. Human Capital: Population, Education and Health
4. The Environment, Development and Sustainability
5. International Trade and Development Strategy
6. Development Policymaking
7. Urbanization, Migration, and Employment

A **Weekly Schedule** is posted on the course page with more details. Your instructor reserves the right to make relevant changes to the coverage as the course develops. Block for each topic in eClass would indicate weekly updates.

3.1 Evaluations

Components	Due Date / Time / Structure⁽¹⁾	Weight
Midterm 1	Tuesday, Oct 24, 2023, during class time, in class, in person, synchronous, includes contents from Topics 1 and 2 (Chs 1, 2, 3, 5, and additional references)	20%
Midterm 2	Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023, during class time, in class, in person, synchronous, includes contents from Topics 3, 4, and 5 (Chs 6, 8, 10, 12, and additional references)	20%
Quizzes	Best 5 out of 6 Quizzes. (You can find specific dates under the “Quizzes” block in eClass)	10%
Writing Tasks & Participation	In-class, in-person, synchronous, throughout the term	35%
Paper & Presentation	Online submission in Turnitin (10%, asynchronous, due on Dec 07, 5 pm) and presentation (in-person, during class time, schedule will be given after the reading break)	15%

Notes: (1) If there are any changes to any of these dates, students will be notified on or before the 2nd week.

Class Structure, Writing Tasks & Participation: Each week, our class will be generally divided into two parts. In one of these parts, students will collaborate in groups to discuss related class topics and readings. Additionally, they will individually write answer to some specific questions. In the other part, I will lead the discussion and teach relevant topics. Students are not permitted to use electronic devices in class, and recording audio, video, or images are not permitted. Class presentations and some of the discussions might be recorded by your instructor for grading and evaluation purposes only. The recordings will remain confidential and will only be accessible to instructors and graders.

For group discussions, students will be introduced to each other. If you are concerned about sharing your name with classmates, please officially inform me via email. Writing tasks and participation in discussion groups will account for 35% of the total marks. This is an interactive class, and regular and punctual attendance is essential. Generally, missing one class will not affect your grade for this component. However, if you miss more than one class, your grade for this part will naturally be lower. For specific grading details and the grading rubric, please refer to the “Writing Tasks & Participation” block in eClass.”

Midterm Tests: Midterms are scheduled for the dates mentioned above. The exams will be conducted in person and synchronously. There will be 10 problem-solving and analytical questions, all of which you will need to answer within a 70-minute time frame. These exams are closed book, so no aids are permitted, and calculators are not allowed. A sample midterm will be available on eClass at least for a week, before the actual test date. You will be able to find it under the “Tests & Exams” section.

Quizzes: There will be a total of 6 graded quizzes. You can find the specific dates listed in the “Weekly Schedule” on eClass. All online quizzes are open book tasks, accessible at least two days before the deadline, with a single attempt allowed. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. That is, the best 5 out of the 6 quizzes will be counted.

Paper and Presentation: The proposal is due on **October 06, 2023, 5pm** (online submission through Turnitin, eClass; link will be available during first two weeks). Failing to submit your proposal by the hard deadline will result in a deduction of 5 marks from your course grade. The final version of the term paper is due on **December 07, 2023, 5 pm** (online submission through Turnitin, eClass; link will be available at least a month before the deadline). Failing to submit your proposal by the hard deadline will be subject to a 20 percent marks deduction per day. Accordingly, if anyone is late by 5 days, they will receive 0% from this grade component. Your paper should address topics discussed in our course within the context of a developing or less developed country. I strongly recommend submitting your proposal as soon as possible, as only one student can select a specific country for their paper. In case of multiple proposals for the same country, the student who submitted their proposal first will be granted permission, while others will need to revise their proposal.

Paper presentations will be conducted in person during the last six classes. The presentation schedule will be posted following the reading week and determined by a random draw, ensuring impartiality, and avoiding bias related to alphabetical order of names. Further details can be found under the "Paper & Presentation" block in eClass. If you require special accommodation, you must inform me as soon as the schedule is published. If you do not make a class presentation during the scheduled date, you will receive 0% for this grade component.

3.2 Missed exams/Tests and Other details

No permission is ever given to a student to attend a test or exam in advance of its scheduled date.

No permission is ever given to a student to rewrite a test or exam to improve their grade.

No alternate arrangement will be available for late enrollers in terms of any grading components.

There are no makeups for any quizzes, participation, writing tasks, or any parts related to the paper. We have default, in-built leniency in this course: students can miss one quiz, one participation, and one writing task by default without having any effect on their grade, and students have several weeks to work on their proposal and paper. As such, no makeup (or option to shift the weight) would be available for these components. A lateness penalty applies to all submissions relating to the paper (details will be posted in eClass).

Students missing the midterm will be provided the opportunity to write a makeup test at the end of the term. For this term, no documentation needs to be submitted to write the Makeup Test. But you need to email me within 7 calendar days if you missed an exam. *Important Note:* A "missed test" is one that a student does not even begin to access or initiate, so once a test is initiated by a student, it can no longer be categorized as missed even if it is not completed and submitted by the student.

Students who miss either term test will write the Makeup Test which will be held in class, in person on the *last day of our class*. There is only one comprehensive Makeup Test, covering all materials from our syllabus. Students cannot get back the Makeup Test. I will post and announce instructions for the Makeup Test at least two weeks before the exam. Students are responsible to attend the Makeup Test on the scheduled date, as there are no other makeup exams. That is, there WILL NOT be a Makeup for the Missed Makeup Test. The weight of the missed test(s) WILL NOT be shifted to any other component.

You must be available to write the Makeup Test. No other times will be scheduled. If you miss Test 1 and are granted permission to write the Makeup Test, you must still write Test 2. If you miss Test 1, write the Makeup test, and skip Test 2, you will receive a zero for Test 2. If you miss only Test 2 and are granted permission to write the Makeup Test, the Makeup Test will count only for Test 2.

The weight of a missed term test cannot be transferred to any other component. The only way to earn the marks if you miss a test is to write the Makeup Test. Students who miss both term tests will receive a grade of 0 for one of the tests. Students who miss one or both term tests (Test 1 and/or Test 2) AND the Makeup Test, will receive a grade of 0 for the missed test(s).

3.3 Technology Requirements

This course is scheduled to have in-person lectures, term test final etc., but eClass Learning Management System (LMS) would be used for several activities. As such, access to a laptop or desktop computer with camera, microphone, and a strong, stable internet connection is required to fully participate in this course. To check if you have high speed Internet connection, you can run tests, such as [Speedtest](#). You are responsible for maintaining regular backup copies of your files, using antivirus software, and scheduling enough time when completing an online task to allow for delays due to technical difficulties. Computer virus/malware, crashed drives, broken printers/devices, lost/corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, lost Wi-Fi connections, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for missing a test/exam/deadline. Students might need to appear online (with their audio and video) for purposes relating to grading or academic integrity concerns, and there may be live online office hours and/or other online sessions. If you are not comfortable with these requirements, you may not wish to enroll in this section of this course.

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](#)

For Technology requirements/FAQs for Moodle: <http://www.yorku.ca/moodle/students/faq/index.html>

- Should there be any Zoom session with other students, if you have privacy concerns, you can provide your first name or a nickname, and you can keep your webcam and microphone off. Students do not have the permission to record any Zoom sessions (unless they obtain special permission from me).
- For one-to-one Zoom interactions, I need to see you during our interaction and, therefore, you need to activate your webcam and microphone.

3.4 Grading and Re-evaluation Policy

To achieve a grade, you must earn it. Unless I make a record-keeping error regarding the scores you have earned, I will not be able to adjust your grade. The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (see <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/hist/academic-resources/academic-advising/grading-system> for more details). Final course grades given by the instructor will use the standard York grading scale and may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. Should there be any request for re-grading, your Instructor/Grader reserves the right to re-grade the entire content of the exam (for example, maybe a problem/mistake in your answer was overlooked during the first evaluation, which might get noticed during the re-evaluation). As such, your marks may increase, may decrease, or may remain the same after re-evaluation.

4.1 Emails and Communication: Etiquette/Netiquette

Eclass (Moodle announcements, folders, assessments, and forums) would be used extensively for communication. In eClass, under Forums & Netiquette, you will find a discussion forum for each topic. If you have a question related to that specific topic or chapter, post it in the specified forum. If you can, try to answer another student's questions, which would be a great learning experience even if the answers are not totally correct. It is also a good way for students to engage in meaningful discussion and learn from each other. I would also monitor your response in the forum and include my comments as needed, usually once a day during the week. It is expected that you would check and read all available information before asking a question, and you would follow netiquette. Forums might be hidden during Midterms and Final Exam days. You must follow all eClass announcements on a regular basis.

Emails are meant to be restricted solely **for administrative concerns** that cannot be solved otherwise. *We have hundreds of students each semester; even if only a small percentage of the students are sending emails, it results in a lot of emails.*

If, however, you have a question that is not explained in the contents and/or you cannot post it in the forums, follow the standard formal or official etiquette if you need to email me. Please follow the guidelines posted in eClass under **"Forums & Netiquette."** I will strive to respond within a business day, unless you email me during the weekend or holidays.

4.2 Letters of Accommodation

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns about the course or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>) at the beginning of the semester as soon as possible. **Please note: Students no longer submit Letters of Accommodation to their instructor.** Rather, students request their Letter of Accommodation through a companion Student Portal available through Student Accessibility Services. Instructors will then access the Letters of Accommodation directly via a Faculty Portal. Accommodated Exam Centers will be opened to accommodate students for in-person exams. *Exams can be accommodated, but there are no extensions for term paper related components.*

4.3 Important Dates and ADD/Drop Deadlines for Fall 2023

	Fall 2023
Fall 2023 Semester Start date	Sep 06
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sep 20

Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sep 28
Fall 2023 reading week	Oct 07 – Oct 13
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov 08
Last Day of Classes – Fall 2023 Term	Dec 05
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)**	Nov 09 - Dec 05
Fall 2023 Final Exam period (our exam date, TBA by registrar’s office)	Dec 07-20

****Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course:**

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>

4.4 Other Important course information for students

Course materials and Copyright: 1) Course materials should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to record, duplicate, copy and/or distribute the materials (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also FIPPA); and 3) if there are any recordings by the instructor, those are to be destroyed after the end of classes.

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation - <https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf>

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

- 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
- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

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, which is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences (in the context of all graded components in this course, including the paper), as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK’s Academic Integrity module: (<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity>). Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another’s work, the representation of another’s ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, which may result in severe punishment, as per Senate Policies.

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will be normally required to submit their online written materials to Turnitin (via eClass) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The similarity index will be visible only to your instructor and graders. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

You need to agree to follow an “**ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT/AGREEMENT**” for all graded components, a sample of which is provided here:

- You will complete all your graded components (assignments/tests/exams/quizzes/papers/projects) solely by yourself, unless explicitly directed by me as your instructor to do it differently. No other person will assist or complete these graded components for you; impersonation, and receiving or giving any form of assistance,

paid or not, from or to another person is cheating and breaches academic honesty principle, and will be subject to academic penalty. More specifically:

- You will complete the graded components without any testing aids that are not approved by me as your instructor. Accordingly, you are NOT ALLOWED to use your notes, the textbook, or any other paper or digital resources (including online or in-person consultation with others) during tests/exams, unless explicitly allowed to do so by me as your instructor.
- You will not discuss the graded assignment/test/exam/quiz questions or potential answers with anyone, including other students, both in this course and elsewhere. This includes future online and in-person communication.
- Copying other people's words in your answers is not allowed and will be considered as plagiarism/cheating. This means that you must put answers/descriptions in your own words if you are using sources you have not written, such as the reference papers, course slides or other study notes.
- All test/exam materials are the property of the Department of Economics, York University, and unauthorized dissemination or recording of the tests/exams (including, but not limited to, unauthorized posting/emailing of any part of the tests/exams) is prohibited. You will not replicate, copy, print, take picture or record any lecture and/or questions on the graded assignments/quizzes/exam/test to share with others.
- It is your responsibility as a student to conduct your academic work, including your exams, in the manner that adheres to the university's standards of academic integrity, as outlined in: ["https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/"](https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/).

Let us have a respectful and enjoyable journey together!