

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University
AP/ECON 3569 3.00 M (Cross-listed to: AP/PPAS 3569 3.00)
Economic Policy in Developing Countries (S2 2024)
Course Outline (updated version would be available in eClass by the first day of class)

1.1 Course Webpage

eClass (Moodle): eclass.yorku.ca (available by the first day of the semester). Please note, if you enroll later, it takes two business days from the time of your enrolment to access your course website.

1.2 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.

1.3 Course Instructor/ Contact/ Office Hours

Instructor: Dr. Simin Seury, Department of Economics, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, CANADA.

Phone: N/A. Email: seury@yorku.ca

TA: Shadi Rahimfallah. Email: shadirf@yorku.ca

Office Hours: Online. Thursdays 15:00 – 16:00 (Zoom link will be available in eClass)

1.4 Lecture (Time/ Location/ Delivery Mode)

Lecture Day/ Time/ Location: Monday & Wednesday 11:30 – 14:30 in VH 1152A (Keele).

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

2.1 Course Description

This course examines policy issues arising from development planning. Topics covered include various development issues and concepts relating to less developed and developing countries, including policy issues related to development crises, environmental degradation, sustainable development, finance and investment, foreign aid and self-reliance, international trade, and fiscal and monetary policies.

Course Learning Objectives

- Students will learn to apply economic concepts and theories to critically analyze human development issues in less developed and developing countries.
- Students will learn to evaluate the impact of development policies on individual and social wellbeing.
- To complement the lectures, students are required to read the textbook and recommended materials thoroughly. The ability to write analytical papers and reports would be a significant part of this course as well.

2.2 Course Text / Readings

Textbook: Economic Development, by Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith.

The 13th edition of this text is available from York University bookstore via the D1D program. I will use the latest (13th) edition (but you can use an older edition, if it is more convenient for you).

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

We intend to cover the following chapters from the text:

Ch 1- 5 review: Growth, Development, and Wellbeing: Global Perspective

Ch 10: The Environment and Development planning

Ch 12: International Trade Theory and Development Strategy

Ch 13-14: Debt, Aid and Conflict

15: Fiscal and Monetary Policies

Additional references: Development Policymaking and Sustainable Development

A **Tentative (Weekly) Schedule** would be posted on the course page with more details by the first day of our lecture. Your instructor reserves the right to make relevant changes to the coverage as the course develops.

3.1 Evaluations

Components	Due Date / Time / Structure ⁽¹⁾	Weight
Midterm 1	Wednesday, Jul 17, 2024, during class time, in class, in person, synchronous, includes contents from Topics 1 and 2	25%
Midterm 2	Wednesday, Jul 31, 2024, during class time, in class, in person, synchronous, includes contents from Topics 3, 4, and 5	25%
Writing Tasks & Participation	In class, in-person, synchronous, throughout the term	25%
Paper & Presentation	The proposal and the paper (20%) must be submitted through Turnitin on eClass. The proposal is due on July 19, 2024, by 5 pm. The paper is due on August 9, 2024, by 5 pm. The presentation (5%) will take place according to the presentation schedule (TBA) during the last three classes.	25%

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 generally be divided into two parts. In one part, I will lead the discussion and teach relevant topics. In the other part, students will collaborate to discuss related class topics and readings. Additionally, they will individually write answers to some specific questions. Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices in class. Accordingly, recording audio, video, or images is not permitted. Writing tasks and participation in discussion groups will account for 25% 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 two classes, 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 several 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 of the midterm format will be available on eClass at least one week before the actual test date. You will be able to find it under the “Tests & Exams” section.

Paper and Presentation: 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 the 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. The proposal is due on **July 19, 2024, by 5 pm** (online submission through Turnitin, eClass; link will be available at least a week before the deadline). Late submissions will be subject to penalties. Failing to submit your proposal could result in up to 50% of the marks being deducted from your paper. The final version of the term paper is due on **August 9, 2024, by 5 pm** (online submission through Turnitin, eClass; link will be available at least a week before the deadline). Late submissions will also be subject to penalties. Paper presentations will be conducted during class time in the last three classes. The presentation schedule will be posted after Midterm 2 and will be determined by a random draw, ensuring impartiality and avoiding bias related to the 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 possible. If you do not make a class presentation on the scheduled date, you will receive 0% for this grade component. 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.

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 in-class writing tasks or any parts related to the paper. We have a default, in-built leniency in this course: students can miss one participation and writing task by default without 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) will be available for these components. A lateness penalty applies to all submissions relating to the paper (details will be posted in eClass).

Students missing midterm may have the permission to write a make-up if (a) they were sick at the time of the test, and (b) *they did not attempt the original midterm*, and (c) they notified the instructor by email (seury@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of the missed test. If all these conditions are met, the student may be permitted to write the makeup test in class on August 7, 2024. Students are not required to submit an Attending Physician Statement or medical document for a test impacted by the COVID-19 situation.

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. 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 a week 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.

If you missed a Midterm test, you must be available to write the Makeup Test. No other times will be scheduled. For instance, if you miss Midterm 1 and are granted permission to write the Makeup Test, you must still write Midterm 2. If you miss Midterm 1, write the Makeup test, and skip Midterm 2, you will receive a zero for Midterm 2. If you miss only Midterm 2 and are granted permission to write the Makeup Test, the Makeup Test will count only for Midterm 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 (Midterm 1 and/or Midterm 2) AND the Makeup Test, will receive a grade of 0 for the missed test(s).

3.3 Grading and Re-evaluation Policy

To achieve a grade, you must earn it. Unless I made any error regarding the scores, marks cannot be upgraded. 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 (as such, any problem/mistake in your answer that was overlooked during the first evaluation, might get noticed during the re-evaluation). So, your marks may be increased/decreased/unchanged after the re-evaluation.

3.4 Technology Requirements

This course includes in-person lectures, tests, and exams, but will also utilize Zoom and the eClass (LMS) for various activities. Therefore, access to a laptop or desktop computer with a camera, microphone, and a reliable, high-speed internet connection is required for full participation. You can verify your internet speed with tools like [Speedtest](#). Additionally, you are responsible for regularly backing up your files, using antivirus software, and allowing extra time for online tasks to accommodate potential technical issues. Common technology issues such as computer viruses/malware, crashed drives, broken printers/devices, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, and lost Wi-Fi connections are not acceptable excuses for missing tests, exams, or submission deadlines. Students must attend online presentations that include audio and video. There may also be other online meetings for grading, academic integrity concerns, or live online office hours. If these requirements are not suitable for you, you may wish to reconsider enrolling in this section of the course.

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 and presentations, I need to see you during our interaction and, therefore, you need to activate your webcam and microphone.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help: [Student Guide to eClass](#); [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#); [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#); [Computing for Students Website](#); [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

4.1 Emails and Communication: Etiquette/Netiquette

Eclass (Moodle announcements, folders, assessments, and forums) will be utilized extensively for communication throughout the course. It is imperative that you consistently follow all class announcements. In eClass, under Forums and Netiquette, you will find a discussion forum for each topic. Should you have any inquiries specific to a chapter or topic, please post them in the corresponding forum. Additionally, you are encouraged to respond to other students' questions. Engaging in this manner can be an enriching learning experience, even if the responses are not entirely accurate. This practice not only fosters meaningful discussion but also facilitates mutual learning among students. I will monitor and contribute as necessary, typically once per day on weekdays. Before posting a question, please review all relevant information thoroughly and adhere to proper netiquette.

Netiquette encompasses a set of guidelines and standards designed to foster a positive online learning environment. These standards should be adhered to in all your online communications, including emails and forums, with all participants. For more information, explore resources from York University at https://careers.yorku.ca/student_topic/practice-good-email-etiquette and additional insights from [ASU Online](#).

Email communication is to be reserved for **administrative concerns** that cannot be addressed through other means. With hundreds of students enrolled each semester, even a small percentage of students sending emails can result in a significant volume of correspondence. Therefore, I may not be able to respond to inquiries about course content, including issues already detailed in the course outline, schedule, or announcements. However, if you have a question that is not addressed in the course materials or it is unsuitable for forum discussion, I am happy to help. When emailing me, please adhere to formal communication etiquette and consult the **guidelines for a sample email format** posted under **“Forums and Netiquette.”**

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.

4.3 Important Dates and ADD/Drop Deadlines

	Summer 2 2024
Semester Start date for the University	July 2
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	July 8
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	July 15
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jun 29
Last Day of Classes	Aug 13
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)	July 30 – Aug 13
Final Exam period for the university	Aug 16 – Aug 23

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.

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/>".

Let us have a respectful and enjoyable journey together!