Faculty Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Department of Economics

Course: AP/ECON3550 3.0 A: Economic Growth and Development

Term: S1 Term, Summer 2026

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

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Course Instructor:

Professor Chaoran Chen
Office: 1034 Vari Hall
Email: chenecon@yorku.ca
Course website: eClass. Check the web site regularly for course announcements, notes, and exercises.

Course Material Delivery Method:

Please note that this is a course with in-person interactions and activities on campus.

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 11.30am—2.30pm at VH3006.

Office hour: Mondays 10.00am—11.00am at 1034 Vari Hall.

Required Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course. For references, you can use *Economic Growth* by Quamrul H. Ashraf and David N. Weil, 4th edition, Routledge.

Problem Sets: I will post problem sets regularly. Working out the problem sets will be crucial in preparing for your exam. I will discuss the solution to the problem sets in class, while the solution will NOT be posted online.

Course Description:

The main objective of this course is to apply economic theory to understand and interpret empirical observations on economic development and growth. In this course, we will study the main facts characterizing economic development and growth over time and across countries, as well as the ability of theoretical models to account for these facts.

I expect that you will be able to perform basic calculus, including simple partial and total derivatives. It is your responsibility to make sure you satisfy the prerequisites.

Evaluation:

Your grade of this course is based on an assignment (growth accounting), a midterm test, and a final exam. Specifically, your grade is computed as Assignment 10%, Midterm 25%, Final 45%, and max{Midterm, Final} 20%. The due date of the assignment will be announced in class, and we apply an 1% out of 10% penalty per day of lateness.

- Midterm date: May 25 in class.
- There will be no make-up midterm exam. Students absent from the midterm test will have the weight transferred to their final exam.
- The final exam will cover all material discussed in this course. The date of exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office.
- The deferred exam for the final exam will be granted only for medical reasons. In such cases students should submit a deferred exam application together with the supporting documents (attending physician's

statement) to the Department of Economics to my attention. Please use the following link for deferred exam application: https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/department-policies/deferred-standing/. The date and time of the deferred exam will be set later. Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

- Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Tentative Course Schedule

May 4: Facts and framework about economic growth; Solow growth model

May 6: Solow growth model; Technology and Productivity; Solow growth model with exogenous productivity growth

May 11: No lecture (I will be attending a conference)

May 13: Human capital; Augmented Solow growth model with human capital

May 18: No lecture (Victoria Day)

May 20: Growth and development accounting; endogenous growth model (if time permits)

May 25: Midterm test (tentative)

May 27: Structural transformation

June 1: The role of agriculture in economic development

June 3: Misallocation

June 8: Dual-economy models

June 10: International trade and economic growth

June 15: Economic geography and institution

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-policies.info.yorku.ca/

- 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

Explore York University's Registrar's Office to find a list of important dates, such as class start/end dates, drop deadlines, holidays and more.