

ECON 3559 3.00 Economic Growth & Development (Writing) (Sec A) [Fall 2026] Course Outline

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

1.1 Course Webpage

eclass.yorku.ca (Please note that the eClass course page will be available by the first day of class)

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. Please review the complete acknowledgement here: [LA&PS Land Acknowledgement](#).

1.2 Prerequisite / Co-requisite

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

Lecture Day/ Time/ Location: Tuesdays, 14:30 – 17:20, SCS 010 (YK - Keele)

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:** Starts from Week 2 (No appointments needed for the drop-in session, weekly hours and Zoom links for which are available under the section “Office Hours” in eClass for further details. You are welcome to speak with me in person after class to discuss other meeting options if you have any questions or concerns.)

1.4 Course Description

This is a writing course in development economics, with a focus on the economic challenges, policy issues, and development experiences of low- and middle-income countries. Students will be introduced to key theoretical frameworks and analytical tools for understanding the causes and consequences of economic underdevelopment and for evaluating alternative approaches to promoting economic and human development. Topics covered include theories of development, economic growth and technological change, human capital formation, strategies for environmentally sustainable development, education, health, and the role of international trade. Throughout the course, students will apply economic theory to contemporary development issues and policy debates while developing their ability to analyze economic arguments and communicate their ideas effectively in writing. The course will enable students to critically assess the factors that shape development outcomes and the policies designed to improve economic and social well-being.

Course Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Explain and apply key concepts, theories, and analytical frameworks to the study of less developed and developing countries.
- Identify and analyze major economic challenges facing low- and middle-income countries, including poverty, inequality, education, health, and environmental sustainability.
- Compare and critically evaluate theories of economic development, growth, and technological change.
- Apply economic theory and evidence to analyze contemporary development issues and policy debates.
- Develop clear, coherent, and well-supported economic arguments in writing, using appropriate economic concepts and evidence.
- Communicate complex ideas in development economics effectively to both academic and broader audiences.

2.1 Course Text / Readings and Required Materials:

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

Cost and availability:

- The e-book can be purchased via the D1D (Day1Digital) option, and the current digital cost is \$90 (Tax exempted). To access your digital material, please see your eClass course page and look for the Day1Digital link under Ebook Section. After you **Opt In**, create a Bookshelf account on VitalSource (use the same email you use for eClass). Make

sure **after Sept 23** to click on this link again to properly sync your VitalSource account.

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

Required Materials for Note-taking and related course policies

Students are expected to actively engage during lectures by taking notes. Class lectures are generally not recorded; therefore, please do not expect recordings to be posted. To support this policy, students must bring appropriate note-taking materials to every class session, including paper and pens or pencils. Examinations should be written legibly, in blue or black ink.

Most class sessions will include handwritten in-class work that must be completed and submitted during the allotted time. During these activities, electronic devices (including laptops, tablets, and phones) must be put away, although handwritten notes may be used when permitted. Because notes from electronic devices cannot be used during these activities, students must bring paper and writing instruments to every class. Laptops and tablets are not acceptable substitutes for these materials. Students are responsible for obtaining these supplies and ensuring that they have them available for each class meeting. These supplies are inexpensive and can be purchased from campus bookstores or local stationery retailers.

2.2 Tentative Topics and Schedule

The course would cover the following topics (as time permits):

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. Urbanisation and Migration

A **Tentative Schedule** will be available 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 Tests and Evaluation

Components	Due Date / Time / Structure^{(1), (2)}	Weight
Writing components	In-person tasks (WT): Completed throughout the term, excluding the first two classes; best n – 2 tasks counted (20%). Paper & Presentation: In-person presentation during class (schedule TBA) and paper (due on Nov 17, 2026, at 5 pm via Turnitin), equally weighted (15%).	35%
Midterm Test	In-person exam during class time. Date: October 27, 2026	30%
Final Exam	Syllabus: Cumulative and comprehensive (including everything covered throughout the semester). In-person. Date: TBA (According to the Final Exam schedule provided by the Registrar's Office for this term). Duration: 120 minutes	35%

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

(2) Only valid identifications, as stated in <https://www.yorku.ca/yucard/>, are accepted during any exams.

Class Participation is an important element in this course. This is an interactive class, and regular, positive participation is essential for your success (see details regarding **Required Materials** under section 2). Headphones, earphones, earbuds, and headsets are not permitted in class unless explicit permission is granted by the instructor. You can find further details on eClass.

Midterm Tests: Midterm test will be conducted in person during class time. The test will consist of several problem-solving and analytical questions, all of which must be answered. These tests are closed-book exams; no aids (such as cheat-sheets, calculators, notes, etc.) are permitted. The exam is expected to require approximately 100–120 minutes to complete. Further details regarding the exam format will be provided during the first two weeks of class. Although the tests will be shorter than

the full class session, please ensure you are available for the entire duration on the test date. The test dates will be reconfirmed and announced during the first two weeks. Further details can be found under the "Test Instructions" section in eClass.

Final Exam: The date of the Final Exam will be determined according to the Final Exam schedule provided by the Registrar's Office for this term. The Final Exam is comprehensive, covering all course material, and will consist of several problem-solving and analytical questions, all of which must be answered. The exam is in-person and closed-book; no aids (such as cheat-sheets, calculators, notes, etc.) are permitted. Calculators are strictly prohibited. The exam is expected to require approximately 100–120 minutes to complete. Further details regarding the exam format will be provided during the first two weeks of class. The **Official Fall 2026 Examination period is from December 10 to December 23, 2026, inclusive**. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you are available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period for the term corresponding to your course. No alternative date for the final exam will be offered. Final exam schedule for this term will be published online by the RO (Registrar's Office) on: October 29, 2026. Therefore, please check the RO's page at that time.

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.

Students missing the midterm exam and requesting a makeup exam will need email me within 48 hours after the missed midterm, clearly explaining their reason. While I do not ask for doctor's note or any supporting documentation if you are sick, I need the confirmation email if you missed a midterm. The makeup exam will be held on November 24, 2026. The makeup test materials will not be returned or disclosed. **You must be available to write the makeup exam**; no alternative times will be scheduled. In other words, there is no makeup for the makeup midterm. To discourage last-minute cramming, the makeup test will cover material from the original midterm as well as content from up to two additional chapters.

Students missing the final exam and requesting deferred exams would need to comply with the Department of Economics policy on deferred exams before a deferred exam will be granted. Deferred Standing Mach forms (managed by the Department) need to be completed and submitted online. Students who do not submit the Deferred Standing Mach form within 7 days of the missed exam, will receive a zero for their final exam score. The Deferred Final Exam structure may change according to the University's policy. There would be *only one* deferred exam date; the date of the deferred final exam is at the discretion of the course director. A link specific to the Deferred Final Exam Applications for this semester will be provided by the department here, closer to the final exam date: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/departments-policies/deferred-standing/>. Therefore, you must visit this link in due time and submit your application accordingly.

Important Note: Effective September 2025, the new [Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work](#) is in place. To support students fairly, there are multiple **built-in flexibilities** in this course in accordance with this policy:

- In-person tasks (WT): Tasks from the first two classes are ungraded. Thereafter, only the best $n - 2$ task scores will count toward the final grade, effectively giving students four additional opportunities to reach their potential.
- Midterms: Makeup Test available for the missed test.
- Final Exam: Deferred exam available for missed final exam.
- Paper Submission: A grace period of at least 3 days will be available to all students.

Therefore, no further accommodations to those already contained in the grading scheme will be approved, and self-reported absences submitted through eClass will not apply (or be considered) for this course. For example:

- If you miss a class participation task after the first two classes (whether you 'self-report' an absence or not), it will count as one of the two tasks not counted in your course grade.
- If you have already missed a midterm (whether you self-report absences or not) and then miss the makeup exam (whether you self-report an absence or not), you will receive a grade of 0 for that missed midterm.

As you can see, this grading system has been designed to balance fairness, flexibility, and academic rigor. Therefore, **no additional individual accommodation will be made** beyond this policy. While it is never easy for me to decline an individual request from any of my students, I must do so in order to maintain fairness and equity for all students.

3.3 Grading and Re-evaluation Policy

Unless there is a recording error, marks cannot be adjusted. Accordingly, please do not request a grade you did not earn. 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). Thus, your marks may be increased/decreased/unchanged after the re-evaluation.

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University, as stated below. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#). 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.

Grade	Point	Percent	Description
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good

Grade	Point	Percent	Description
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing

3.4 Technology Requirements

This course includes in-person lectures, tests, and exams, but will also utilize the eClass Learning Management System (LMS) for various activities. You are also responsible for regularly backing up your files and maintaining updated antivirus protection to prevent technical issues. Common problems, such as malware, hardware failures, lost or corrupted files, internet outages, or incompatible file formats, will not be accepted as excuses for missing tests, exams, or deadlines. Online meetings may be required for grading, academic integrity concerns, or office hours, during which video may be requested. Therefore, access to a computer with a camera, microphone, and a reliable, high-speed internet connection may be required. Should there be any Zoom session with other students, if you have privacy concerns, you can provide your first name or nickname. For one-on-one Zoom interactions, I need to see you during our conversation; therefore, you are required to activate your webcam and microphone. Students are not permitted to record or photograph any part of a class or meeting without my explicit permission. For technical support related to eClass, please contact askit@yorku.ca.

4.1 Emails and Communication: Etiquette/Netiquette

Eclass (announcements and folders) will be utilized extensively for communication throughout the course. It is imperative that you consistently follow all class announcements and materials posted in eClass.

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 interactions with all participants. For more information, please review insights from [Practice good email etiquette](#) and [How to Write an Email to Your Instructor](#).

Email communication is to be reserved for **administrative concerns** that cannot be addressed through other means. Guidelines, along with a **sample email format**, are posted on eClass. Kindly **do not send attachments unless requested**.

4.2 Accessibility for All and Letters of Accommodation

York University is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for any disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS; link: <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>) as soon as possible.

While exams will be adjusted by SAS for students who submitted their request in due time, there are no extensions to completion dates or deadlines. In addition, since in-class participation tasks emphasize positive effort rather than mere attendance, they must be completed during the scheduled class sessions, and no extensions will be granted.

Important: Students no longer submit Letters of Accommodation (LOA) to their instructor. Rather, students request their LOA through a companion Student Portal available through Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Accommodation will be communicated to Course Directors through the LOA. For students who have LOA and require extra time or other accommodations for the in-person midterms, must book with SAS to write these assessments in the Alternate Exam Centre. SAS requires at least **three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange**. Please contact them directly for timelines or any other questions about this process. It is your responsibility to notify SAS in a timely manner; failure to do so may prevent us from accommodating your request.

4.3 Important Dates and ADD/Drop Deadlines^[3]

	2026 Fall
Semester Start date for the University (First day of classes)	Sep 9
Last date to add a course (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sep 22
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov 10
Last Day of Classes for the university during this term	Dec 8
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course & receive a grade of "W" on transcript; see note below) ^[4]	Nov 11 – Dec 8

Notes: [3] Explore the York University [Academic Calendar](#) to find a list of important dates and deadlines.

[4] Policy and Guidelines on **Course Withdrawal**: <https://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/course-withdrawal>

4.4 Other Important course information for students

Only officially registered students may attend the class; others must obtain explicit permission from the instructor to be present.

Exam ID Verification: Only valid identifications, as stated in <https://www.yorku.ca/yucard/>, are accepted during any exams.

Intellectual Property, Course materials and Copyright

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. 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). Students are not permitted to record or photograph classes unless they have obtained permission from the instructor. Any recordings made by the instructor would be destroyed after the conclusion of classes. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making reasonable and appropriate [accommodations to adherents for observances of special significance](#). Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a [Religious Accommodation for Examination Form](#) at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Important Academic Forms

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/>

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. To maintain a fair and honest learning environment, you are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity in all courses and academic activities. You are encouraged to connect with reliable [on-campus resources](#) that support your coursework and academic honesty. To better understand the serious consequences of breaching academic honesty policies, familiarize yourself with the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). You can learn more about upholding academic integrity in your courses by exploring [Guiding Principles for LA&PS](#) and [Academic Integrity for Students](#). 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/).

I am professionally obligated to report any behavior that may involve academic dishonesty or violate the integrity of the class.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created (in whole or part) through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). Using AI apps such as ChatGPT, GPT-3, DALL-E, translation software among others to complete academic work **without your instructor's knowledge or permission**, is considered to be a breach of academic honesty. For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

If you are not sure whether using an AI app for your academic work is

acceptable, it is recommended that you:

- Carefully review the guidelines for your assessments
- Check for any messages from your instructor on eClass
- Ask your instructor or TA if they are permitting the use of these tools

Student Success, Support, and Resources

York University offers a wide range of student supports resources and services, including everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\) Program](#) provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.
- [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#) supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.
- [Academic Advising](#) is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- [Student Accessibility Services](#) are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- [Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- [Centre for Indigenous Student Services](#) offers a community space with academic, spiritual, cultural, and physical support, including writing and learning skills programs.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit [Student Support & Resources](#).

Let us have a respectful and enjoyable journey together!