



St. Francis Xavier University

Department of Economics

ECON 305/DEVS 305: Economic Development I

Instructor: Zeynep Ozkok

Fall 2020

Office: Mulroney Hall 3061
Telephone: 867-5855
E-mail: zozkok@stfx.ca
Web Page: <https://sites.google.com/site/zeynepozkok/>
Classes: Tuesday 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm and Thursday 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Description

This course provides an overview of the most pressing issues and problems facing present day developing countries. It focuses on the economic development strategies and prospects used around the world. We study the common features shared by many developing countries and examine economic models for these countries to follow in their transformation to become developed nations. Overall, the course offers a detailed analysis on the progress of developing countries and underlines the remaining problems and challenges that need to be addressed in the future. Topics include poverty, inequality, and development; past and present theories of economic growth; alternate approaches to economic development; models of development and underdevelopment; population growth; rapid urbanization and rural-urban migration; education and health in economic development.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The course has four main objectives:

- (1) To provide a broad understanding of the existing economic realities in developing countries.
- (2) To help students develop analytic skills and broaden their perspectives of the wide scope of development economics.
- (3) To present a clear analysis on what has been accomplished and what remaining problems have to be addressed for developing countries.
- (4) To foster students' ability to understand contemporary economic problems of developing countries and help reach independent and informed judgments and policy conclusions about their possible resolution.

Prerequisites

ECON 101 and 102.

Textbook

Todaro, Michael P., and Stephen C. Smith. (2015). *Economic Development*. 12th Edition. Pearson- Addison Wesley. (**Note:** The same textbook will be used for ECON/DEVS 306 in the Winter 2021 semester. You **CAN** also use the 11th Edition.)

Recommended reading

- Banarjee, Abhijit V., and Esther Duflo. (2012). *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Rosling, Hans, Ola Rosling, and Anna Rosling Ronnlund. (2018). *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We are Wrong About the World – and Why Things are Better Than You Think*. New York: Flatiron Books.

Evaluation

The course grade is based on a midterm, three assignments, two reading responses/opinion pieces and a final exam as follows:

- Mid-term: 25%
- Assignments (3): 15%
- Reading responses/opinion pieces (2): 20%
- Final exam: 40%

Students are expected to attend all lectures. The mid-term exam is scheduled for **October 29** during class time. The final exam, to be scheduled by the registrar's office in December 2020, will be cumulative and will cover material from the whole term.

Three assignments will be given throughout the term. Students are free to work with other students on these assignments and submit their work in groups of 1, 2 or 3. Assignments should be handed in during the start of the lecture in which they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero. Assignments will include theoretical questions, as well as empirical ones that require obtaining data and making tables. The solutions for the assignments will be posted on Moodle.

Two reading responses or opinion pieces will also be given during this term. These will be personal responses or opinions to readings, which will be posted on Moodle. These readings will be based on the content covered in class and will provide an additional analysis on the topics examined in this course. Students are asked to provide up to two pages (typed, single-spaced) responses/opinion pieces to the readings. Given the nature of these responses/opinion pieces, students are required to work **alone** and submit their own work.

The office hours for this term will be conducted online, on Blackboard Collaborate. The links for the virtual office hours will be posted on Moodle. Please allow for 5 to 10 minutes for everyone to get on Blackboard Collaborate. Aside from the online office hours, you can also send me questions via email.

Please note that this in-person course will switch to online delivery if circumstances related to Covid-19 require it in the Fall term. Also, note that the materials in this course are the property of the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties for distribution without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct under StFX's Community Code of Conduct and the Senate Policy on Academic Integrity and/or legal consequences for violation of copyright law if copyright law has been violated. For more information, please visit the StFX copyright guide: <http://www2.mystfx.ca/library/campus-copyright>

Course Outline

Part I: Principles and Concepts

	Chapter
1. Introducing Economic Development: A Global Perspective	1
2. Comparative Economic Development	2
3. Classic Theories of Economic Growth and Development	3
4. Contemporary Models of Development and Underdevelopment	4

Part II: Problems and Policies: Domestic

1. Poverty, Inequality, and Development	5
2. Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies	6
3. Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration: Theory and Policy	7
4. Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development (If time permits)	8