

Department of Economics
ECON 2334: Perspective on Econ Development
Fall 2020 Course Syllabus

Prof. Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel

Dalhousie University, Department of Economics

Office: 6214 University Avenue, B21

E-mail: mevlude@dal.ca

Office hours: Mondays 12:00-14:00 (in Brightspace, no appointment needed during this time). Meetings at any other time must be arranged in advance via e-mail and will take place in Zoom.

Lectures: Asynchronous

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to expose you to the major debates and current research in development economics. The topics range from the very definition of development economics to specific debates like the effectiveness of microcredit or the importance of institutions versus geography. Not everything will be presented as a debate, but instead will inform you of current issues in development economics. The course will be a combination of online lectures, discussion, assignment, and online quizzes.

Course Prerequisites: Economics 1101, 1102

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

- Students will attain, through online lectures, weekly readings and quizzes and assignment, the knowledge of the foundation of economic development.
- Students will be able to critically assess and analyze the scholarly articles through weekly readings.
- Students will relate the academic articles taught in the class to the pressing issues in development economics through writing a response paper relating the findings in the field.

Textbooks:

- Secondi, Giorgio. 2008. *The Development Economics Reader*. Routledge **(Required)**.
- Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. Public Affairs **(Recommended)**.
- Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2019. *Good Economics for Hard Times*. Public Affairs **(Recommended)**.

Course Assessment:

1. Midterm1: 20% (Friday, October 9, 2020, 12:00-13:30 AST)
2. Midterm2: 20% (Friday, November 20, 2020, 12:00-13:30 AST)
3. Final: 25% (during Final Week, date to be announced)
4. Online Quizzes: 20% (5 Quizzes, each worth 4%, due 4 pm AST, Sept 18 (Quiz #1), Oct 2 (Quiz #2), Oct 16 (Quiz #3), Oct 30 (Quiz #4), Nov 27 (Quiz #5))
5. Assignment: 15% (November 27, 2020, 4 pm AST)

Online Class Delivery: Due to public health regulations, courses will be delivered online in fall 2020 in Dalhousie University. This class will be delivered asynchronously. Asynchronous delivery will offer a flexible learning experience, where students do not have to be online at a specific time/day to access material or complete tasks. However, as I will detail while explaining the components of the course, midterms and final will be held on the specified times. Moreover, the bi-weekly online quizzes will have a time limit on access to and the completion deadlines stated in the course outline below.

Exams: Exams will draw heavily from lectures, quizzes and exercise questions. Each exam will cover the specified topics only, not the entire course material. **Students are required to notify me via email prior to the start of the final exam if they cannot write it. Depending on the circumstances of the student, an arrangement for an alternative date for final will be made.**

Quizzes: Every other week, you will be delivered an online quiz on readings covered in the previous classes. There will be 5 online quizzes in total. Each quiz will worth 4% of your final grade. Quizzes will be 10-15 minutes long. I will post the quiz questions on Brightspace at 10 am on Friday mornings. You can take it any time until 4 pm the same Friday and you will have a right to have only one try.

Assignment: During this course, there will be one assignment which will worth 15% of your final grade. Late assignments will be marked down by 20 percent per day. Any exception requires a legitimate reason listed in the Dalhousie University Calendar under section 16.8 of “Academic Regulations.”

Assignment Due Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 at 4 pm AST (submission via email).

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Introduction to Economic Development: What is development economics? How do economists think?

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2011. Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to fight Global Poverty. Foreword, Chapter 1 (Think Again, Again) and Chapter 2 (A Billion Hungry People?).

Secondi Chapter 1: New Directions in Development Thinking

Secondi Chapter 2: The Human Development Paradigm

TED talk of Esther Duflo.

TED Talk of Hans Rosling.

2. Measuring Poverty, Policies and Politics

"What is poverty? Concepts and measures" from UNDP's *Poverty in Focus*, December 2006

Secondi Chapter 3: Perspectives on the Economic Development of India and China

Secondi Chapter 4: The Poor and the Rich

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 9 (Cash and Care)

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 8 (Legit.gov)

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2011. Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to fight Global Poverty. Chapter 10 (Policies, Politics)

3. Institutions, Geography and Poverty Traps

Basic Solow Growth Model and its Extensions and Implications

Secondi Chapter 7: Root Causes: A Historical Approach to Assessing the Role of Institutions in Economic Development*

Secondi Chapter 8: The Primacy of Institutions (And what this does and does not mean)

Secondi Chapter 9: Institutions Matter, but Not for Everything: The Role of Geography

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 5 (The End of Growth?) and Chapter 6 (In Hot Water) and Chapter 7 (Player Piano)

4. Missing Women

Sen, Amartya. 1990. "More than 100 Women are missing." New York Review of Books.

Qian, Nancy. 2008. "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China: The Effect of Sex-specific Income on Sex Imbalance." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(3): 1251-1285.

5. Inequality and Poverty

Secondi Chapter 13: Inequality Matters*

Secondi Chapter 14: The Economic Lives of the Poor

Secondi Chapter 15: New Thinking about an Old Problem

Secondi Chapter 16: Engendering Development

Secondi Chapter 17: Women's Agency and Social Change

6. Health

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2011. Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to fight Global Poverty. 3 (Low-Hanging Fruit for Better (Global) Health?).

Secondi Chapter 20: Health, Wealth, and Welfare

Secondi Chapter 22: New Antimalarial Drugs: Biology and Economics Meet

7. Education

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2011. Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to fight Global Poverty. Chapter 4 (Top of the Class).

Secondi Chapter 23: The Learning Deficit

Secondi Chapter 24: The Ten Cent Solution

Secondi Chapter 25: A World of Opportunity