

Department of Economics
ECON 2334: Perspective on Economic Development
Fall 2023 Course Syllabus

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 14:35-15:55, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2016

Instructor: Prof. Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel, Dalhousie University, Department of Economics

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Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 14:35-15:55, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2016

Office hours: Meetings should be arranged in advance via e-mail and will take place in Zoom or in-person.

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 determinants of income differences across countries, the investigation of the effectiveness of education and health policies and 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 in-person lectures, discussions, assignment, and quizzes.

Course Prerequisites: Economics 1101, 1102

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

- Students will attain, through in-person 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 textbook taught in the class to the pressing issues in development economics through writing a response debate paper relating the findings in the field.

Textbooks:

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

Course Assessment:

1. Midterm: 30% (Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 14:35-15:55 AST)
2. Final: 35% (during Final Week, date to be announced)
3. Quizzes: 20% (5 Quizzes, each worth 4%, Sept 18 (Quiz #1), Oct 4 (Quiz #2), Oct 18 (Quiz #3), Nov 8 (Quiz #4), Nov 29 (Quiz #5) during the class time, duration of the quizzes will be 20-25 minutes)
4. Assignment: 15% (Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 23:59 AST)

Exams: Exams will draw heavily from lectures 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 exam if they cannot write the final exam. Depending on the circumstances of the student, an arrangement for an alternative date for final will be made.**

NECESSARY ATTENDANCE DATES FOR THE EXAMS

Mid-term: Wednesday, October 25, 2023, between 14:35 and 15:55 in Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2016

Final Exam: The date, time and place of the final exam will be determined by the Registrar's Office.

Quizzes: Almost every other week, you will be delivered an in-class quiz on readings covered in the previous classes. There will be 5 quizzes in total. Each quiz will worth 4% of your final grade. Quizzes will be around 20-25 minutes long. **No make-ups will be given if you miss a quiz.** Quizzes are aimed to increase the class attendance as well as participation in classroom discussions.

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.” Each assignment should be submitted individually, and no student collaboration is allowed. You are expected to submit your assignment through Urkund in the Brightspace.

Assignment Due Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 23:59 AST (submission via Brightspace)

Grading: Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A+	(90-100)	B+	(77-79)	C+	(65-69)	D	(50-54)
A	(85-89)	B	(73-76)	C	(60-64)	F	(<50)
A-	(80-84)	B-	(70-72)	C-	(55-59)		

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. 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?)

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 1: Introduction

TED talk of Esther Duflo.

TED Talk of Hans Rosling.

II. Institutions, Geography, Poverty Traps, and Trade

Basic Solow Growth Model and its Extensions and Implications (from Marginal Revolution)

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 5: The End of Growth?

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 2: The Pains from Trade

III. Economic Consequences of Artificial Intelligence

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 7: Player Piano

IV. Climate Change and Public Policy

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. 2019. Good Economics for Hard Times, Chapter 6: In Hot Water

V. Poverty Alleviation Programs, Governments, Politics

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

VI. Health, Nutrition in Developing World

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

VII. Education and Education Policies in Developing World

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