

Economic Development Syllabus

Department of Economics

ECON 3333, Fall 2023

Dalhousie University acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

Course Instructor(s)

Name	Email	Office Hours
Daniel Rosenblum	Daniel.Rosenblum@dal.ca	Fridays 11AM-noon or by appointment, C22 in the Economics Department (6220 University Ave)
TA: Md Ashraf	md757301@dal.ca	Tuesdays, 11am-noon, virtual (e-mail for appointment)

Course Description

This course surveys applications of economic theory to economic development as well as recent empirical research in development economics. Topics may include growth theory, poverty and inequality, fertility and population growth, health, education, the environment, credit markets and microfinance, corruption, gender, and the political economy of development.

Course Prerequisites

ECON 2200.03 (or ECON 2210.03 or ECON 2220.03), ECON 2201.03, with minimum grades of C

Course Exclusions

None

Student Resources

Please see the course Brightspace page for a list of Faculty of Science Student Resources and Support. Your professor and TA will be available during the semester for office hours. If you are unable to meet your professor during regular office hours, please e-mail him to schedule an appointment. Your professor will only respond to e-mails during normal working hours (8:30AM-4:30PM) on weekdays. Your professor will generally respond to e-mails within 1-2 business days.

Course Structure

Course Delivery

The course will be in-person. Lectures will not be recorded.

Lectures

TR 1:05PM - 2:25PM; Dunn Building Room 304

Laboratories

None

Tutorials

None

Course Materials

Required Textbook: Essentials of Development Economics, Taylor and Libbert, 3rd edition.
(available at the Dal Bookstore)

Note: the 2nd edition of the textbook is also acceptable. The content is very similar.

Other *required* assigned readings will be posted to Brightspace.

Assessment

Assignments

There are seven assignments due throughout the semester. Each assignment will be posted to Brightspace at least one week before it is due. The due dates are as follows:

Assignment 1: Sept 22

Assignment 2: Sept 29

Assignment 3: Oct 6

Assignment 4: Oct 27

Assignment 5: Nov 3

Assignment 6: Nov 10

Assignment 7: Nov 25

Each assignment has equal weight toward the final grade. The lowest assignment grade will be dropped. The assignments are worth 25% of the final grade.

Midterm Exam

The closed-book, in-class midterm exam is worth 25% of the final grade. If the Midterm Exam is missed for **any reason**, the grade weight will be applied to the final exam (the final exam would then be worth 75% of the final grade). The midterm will take place in-class on October 12.

Final Exam

The cumulative, 3-hour Final Exam will be held during the scheduled exam period. It is a closed book exam. The Final Exam is worth 50% of the final grade.

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the

[Dalhousie Grade Scale](#)

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (0-49)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

Course Policies on Missed or Late Academic Requirements

Unless an extension is approved **ahead of time** or there is an emergency, **late assignments will be given a grade of zero**. Medical notes are **NOT** required and will not be accepted. You also do **NOT** need to submit a Student Declaration of Absence form for missed assignments or the midterm exam. However, **if you miss the Final Exam, you must submit a Student Declaration of Absence form ahead of time or receive a zero for the Final Exam**.

If you are absent for the midterm, the weight of the midterm will be applied to the final exam. That is, your final exam would then be worth 75% of your final grade instead of 50%. **There is no make-up midterm exam.**

Class Participation:

Students are not allowed to use phones, tablets, or computers during class without the permission of the professor. Use of such devices may reduce your course grade. **There is no grade penalty for missing classes due to illness.**

Classes will not be recorded and lecture videos will not be made available to students. PowerPoint slides will be posted to Brightspace after the day of the lecture.

Course Policies related to Academic Integrity

Collaboration Policy

You are not allowed to work in groups for your assignments. All assignments must be completed **individually**. Students should never submit an assignment that is a copy of another student's work.

Plagiarism Detection Software

Assignments containing essay components may be checked for plagiarism with the Urkund software program on Brightspace.

Academic Integrity: Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as “the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one’s own.” All of the content of your assignments and final exam is expected to be your own thoughts and words unless that content is cited appropriately. You are expected to have completed the Writing Centre Academic Integrity Module (link on Brightspace). If you have any questions about whether you may or may not be violating the university’s academic integrity policy, contact your professor before submitting the assignment/exam for assistance.

AI/ Large Language Models (LLM): Unless you are told to use an AI/LLM program, such as ChatGPT, as part of the instructions of an assignment, **you are not allowed to use AI/LLM programs to assist you in writing your assignments.**

Learning Objectives

- Understand macro (growth) and microeconomic theories of economic development.
- Understand recent empirical research in a range of development economics topics

Course Content

Tentative Course Content and Outline (subject to change by the professor)

Week 1 (Sept 5, 7): Introduction; What is development economics? How do economists think?

Larry Summers Memo

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 1: What Development Economics Is All About

Ray, Debraj (2008). "Development Economics" in *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, edited by Lawrence Blume and Steven Durlaf.

Week 2: Research Methods in Development Economics (Sept 12, 14).

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 2: What Works and What Doesn't?

Week 3: Measuring Poverty (Sept 19, 21)

(**Assignment 1 Due Sept 22**)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 3: Income and Chapter 4: Poverty

Week 4: Inequality and Human Development (Sept 26, 28)

(**Assignment 2 Due Sept 29**)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 5: Inequality and Chapter 6: Human Development

Week 5: Growth (Oct 3, 5)

(**Assignment 3 Due Oct 6**)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 7: Growth

Week 6: Review and Midterm Exam (Oct 10, 12)

Oct 10: Review

Oct 12: In class, closed book MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7: Institutions (Oct 17, 19)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 8: Institutions

Week 8: Agriculture (Oct 24, 26)

(**Assignment 4 Due Oct 27**)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 9: Agriculture

Week 9: Information and Markets (Oct 31, Nov 2)

(**Assignment 5 Due Nov 3**)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 11: Information and Markets

Week 10: Credit and Insurance (Nov 7, 9)

(**Assignment 6 Due Nov 10**)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 12: Finance

Fall Study Break: No classes Nov 13-17

Week 11: Missing Women (Nov 21, 24)

(Assignment 7 Due Nov 25**)**

Sen, Amartya (1990) "More than 100 Million Women Are Missing," *New York Review of Books*.

Anderson, S., & Ray, D. (2010). "Missing women: age and disease." *The Review of Economic Studies*, 77(4), 1262-130

Duflo, Esther. "Women empowerment and economic development." *Journal of Economic literature* 50.4 (2012): 1051-79.

Week 12 (Nov 28, 30): Game Theory in Development Economics and Review

no readings

Review class on Nov 30

Scheduled Final Exam During the Exam Period

University Policies and Statements

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre at 1321 Edward St or elders@dal.ca. Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, 'thinking and acting globally' enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders." Additional internationalization information can be found at: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html>

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Additional academic integrity information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro. For courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture, please contact the Student Success Centre in Truro (<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html>)

Conduct in the Classroom – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Additional diversity and inclusion information can be found at: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner - perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. The full Code of Student Conduct can be found at:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Fair Dealing Policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. Additional information regarding the Fair Dealing Policy can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes of their intent to choose an alternate method. Additional information regarding Originality Checking Software can be found at:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html

Student Use of Course Materials

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, 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. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.