

Department of Economics
ECON 2334: Perspective on Econ Development
Winter 2022 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, 11:35-12:55, Studley CHEMISTRY 223

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

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Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:55, Studley CHEMISTRY 223

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 poverty, 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 online and in-person lectures, discussions, assignment, and quizzes.

Course Prerequisites: Economics 1101, 1102

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

- Students will attain, through online and 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 academic articles taught in the class to the pressing issues in development economics through writing a response debate 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. Midterm: 25% (Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 11:35-12:55 AST)
2. Final: 30% (during Final Week, date to be announced)
3. Quizzes: 30% (5 Quizzes, each worth 6%, January 19 (Quiz #1), February 2 (Quiz #2), March 2 (Quiz #3), March 16 (Quiz #4), March 30 (Quiz #5) during the class time, duration of the quizzes will be 25 minutes)
4. Assignment: 15% (April 4, 2022, 11:35 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, February 16, 2022, between 11:35 and 12:55, Studley CHEMISTRY 223 (in class)

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 6% of your final grade. Quizzes will be around 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: April 4, 2022, 11:35 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. 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

5. 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

6. 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