

Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS
Department of Economics
Economics 3310-01
Economic Growth in A Historical Perspective
Winter 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.

We acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities who have been here for over 400 years.

Professor: Dozie Okoye

Office: Economics C24

E-mail address: cokoye@dal.ca

Office Hours: T/TH 3:00-4:00pm (Or by appointment)

Session: Jan. 10 - Apr. 6, 2023

Class Room: McCain 2162

Class Time: In-person—T/TH 1:05-2:25pm

Course Website: [Brightspace](#)

TA: TBA

Course Description

This course presents a broad coverage of the economic explanations for why some countries become rich and are able to accumulate wealth, while others remain poor. The focus is from pre-historic to modern times. The course is intended to be an introduction into the latest theoretical tools, data, and insights that provide a solid foundation for understanding why economies grow. We put considerable effort into showing how empirical data relate to the theory, with examples drawn from historical events.

Course Requirements

Intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics (Econ 2200 and Econ2201, or equivalents), with a minimum grade of C, are required for this course. Knowledge of basic algebra and calculus will prove useful.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, the student should be able to distinguish between different factors that can make a country economically prosperous, and lead to improvements in living standards. It is also important to differentiate between fundamental and proximate causes. Further, the student should be able to quantify and evaluate the role of these factors in the economic performance of different countries using data obtained from public sources. The students should also be able to provide broad explanations of the key factors driving historical growth episodes.

The suggested textbook for the course is:

Economic Growth: Third Edition, by David N. Weil, Toronto: Pearson, 2013. Earlier or later editions are also okay.

There is a companion site that comes with the textbook, which may be useful for extra practice. I will also maintain a [Brightspace](#) site that will be used to post course materials as well as any announcements pertinent to the course. Familiarize yourself with the system.

Assessment

Your grade will be determined by the following:

1 Midterm:	30% (February 16th, in Class)
Term Paper:	30% (Due on March 30th)
Final exam:	40% (Date set by registrar)

For the term paper, you will be required to choose a unique developing country (no two students can choose the same country), and analyse the country's historical economic growth performance and the factors underlying that performance. The discussion must be guided by the factors analyzed in class. The term paper must illustrate the history, current, and future, of the country's economic performance with discussions to be guided by data.

Below is the timeline for the term paper:

- The country of choice must be submitted to me by the end of the third week of classes (January 26th).
- A **one-page** summary of the economic performance of your country of choice and the sources of data you plan to use must be submitted by March 7th, 2023 (5 points of the 30% grade). Submissions will be through the Dropbox folder on [Brightspace](#). Failure to submit this summary will lead to a grade of ZERO on the term paper.
- The final paper is due by the end of classes on March 30th, and late submissions will lose 5 points (out of 30) for each additional day. Submissions will be through the Dropbox folder on [Brightspace](#).

The term paper will be discussed in class, but an example of what is expected for your chosen country will be uploaded to Brightspace. **The term paper must not exceed 12 pages and must be written in 12-point size font (tables and graphs included).** Data sources for the term paper are:

- The World Bank World Development Indicators
- Penn World Tables
- IMF Data and Statistics
- UNESCO UIS (especially for education data)
- Barro and Lee dataset

- UNData
- Google Public Data Explorer

You should check these data sources in advance to ensure there are suitable data for your country of choice.

There will be one midterm exam worth 30% of your grade. The midterm will take about 80 minutes to complete, and will cover materials discussed in the preceding weeks. The midterm will take place during classroom hours, on the 16th of February. The final exam is cumulative and will take place during the final exam period on a date set by the registrar. Exams will consist of short answer questions covering materials discussed in class and assigned textbook chapters.

Numerical grades will be converted to letter grades following the Faculty of Science 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)

Grades will be rounded up from 0.5 within the intervals between letter grades.

Missed Exam and Plagiarism Policy

There are no makeup midterm exams. If a student misses the midterm for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, then the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam. Thus, the final exam will count as 70% of the final grade.

If a student misses the final exam for a valid reason, the student will have the opportunity to write a makeup exam, scheduled after the end of the official exam period. Travel arrangements must not be made that will conflict with the final examination period, April 13-25, 2023.

Note that the plagiarism checker *Ouriginal* will be used to check your work for plagiarism. Ensure that all works submitted are yours and in your own words, with ideas properly referenced.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend class. Material covered in class may serve as the basis for exam questions, even if it is not covered in the text, nor on the class notes on Brightspace. Class notes will be posted on [Brightspace](#) about two days before the lecture.

Topics Covered

Below is a list of topics to be covered with corresponding readings assigned from the suggested textbook (additional readings will be discussed in class):

- **Weeks 1 – 2, Introduction:**
 1. **Facts of Economic Growth:** Chapter 1
 2. **Thinking about Growth:** Chapter 2
- **Weeks 3-8, Proximate Causes of Growth:**
 1. **Physical Capital:** Chapter 3

2. **Population Growth and Malthus:** Chapters 4 and 5
 3. **Human Capital:** Chapter 6
 4. **Technological Progress:** Chapters 7, 8, 9
 5. **Efficiency:** Chapter 10
- **Midterm 1:** Thursday, October 18 (In Class)
 - **Weeks 9 – 13, Policy and Fundamental Causes:**
 1. **Trade and Openness:** Chapter 11
 2. **Government and Institutions:** Chapter 12
 3. **Culture:** Chapter 14
 4. **Geography and Natural Resources:** Chapter 15
 5. **Income Inequality:** Chapter 13
 - **Weeks 14, Limits to Growth:**
 1. **Growth and the Environment:** Chapter 16
 2. **Final Review**

This is a tentative outline and adjustments will take place as the course progresses. Any changes to the assigned readings will be announced in class, as well as in the lecture notes. All students are responsible for keeping abreast of any changes.

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus (Section B) (revised April-2022)
Fall/Winter 2022-23

Please ensure that the following information on University Policies is available to all students in your course. This document should be sent to students in your course along with your Course Syllabus, Section A, or may be copied into your **Course Syllabus (Section A)**.

University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of 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.

Information: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.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.

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

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

Statement: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

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 (1321 Edward St) (elders@dal.ca).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

<https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=117&chapterid=1&topicgroupid=31821&loadusercredits=False>

University Grading Practices

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus (Section C) (revised April-2022)
Fall/Winter 2022-23**

Please ensure that the following information on Student Resources is available to all students in your course. This document should be made available to students on the course Brightspace page, or elements may be copied into your [Course Syllabus](#).

Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

Science Program Advisors: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html>

Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html

Academic supports

Library: <https://libraries.dal.ca/>

Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Studying for Success: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Fair Dealing Guidelines <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html>

Other supports and services

Student Health & Wellness Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html

Student Advocacy: <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Safety

Biosafety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Scent-Free Program: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Dalhousie COVID-19 information and updates: <https://www.dal.ca/covid-19-information-and-updates.html>