

Economic Development Syllabus

Department of Economics

ECON 3333, Fall 2026

Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands, and we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies, and contributions have enriched the part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

Course Instructor(s)

Name	Email	Office Hours
Daniel Rosenblum	Daniel.Rosenblum@dal.ca	Tuesdays 2:30-3:30PM or by appointment, C22 in the Economics Department (6220 University Ave)
TA: Aranya Biswas	ar503034@dal.ca	By 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

T/Th 1:05PM - 2:25PM; Chemistry 223

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 six 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 25

Assignment 2: Oct 2

Assignment 3: Oct 9

Assignment 4: Nov 6

Assignment 5: Nov 20

Assignment 6: Nov 27

Each assignment has equal weight toward the final grade. The lowest assignment grade will be dropped. The assignments are worth 15% of the final grade.

Midterm Exam

The closed-book, in-class midterm exam is worth 35% 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 85% of the final grade). The midterm will take place in-class on October 15.

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 85% 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.

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.

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 are 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 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 8, 10): 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 (Sept 15, 17): Research Methods in Development Economics

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

Week 3: Measuring Income and Poverty (Sept 22, 24).

(*Assignment 1 Due Sept 25***)**

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 3: Income

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 4: Poverty

Week 4: Inequality and Human Development (Sept 29, Oct 1)

(*Assignment 2 Due Oct 2***)**

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 5: Inequality

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 6: Human Development

Week 5: Growth (Oct 6, 8)

(*Assignment 3 Due Oct 9***)**

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 7: Growth

Week 6: Review and Midterm Exam (Oct 13, 15)

Oct 13: Review

Oct 15: In class, closed book MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7: Institutions (Oct 20, 22)

Oct 23: Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 8: Institutions

Week 8: Agriculture (Oct 27, 29)

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 9: Agriculture

Week 9: Information and Markets (Nov 3, 5)

(*Assignment 4 Due Nov 6***)**

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 11: Information and Markets

Fall Break: No classes Nov 9-13

Week 10: Credit and Insurance (Nov 17, 19)**(***Assignment 5 Due Nov 20***)**

Taylor and Lybbert Chapter 12: Finance

Week 11: Missing Women (Nov 24, 26)**(***Assignment 6 Due Nov 27***)**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), 1262-130Duflo, Esther. "Women empowerment and economic development." *Journal of Economic literature* 50.4 (2012): 1051-79.**Week 12 (Dec 1, 3): Game Theory in Development Economics; Review**

Review class on Dec 3

Scheduled Final Exam During the Exam Period

Syllabus Appendix

(Formerly University Policies and Statements)

Please go to the following link for [Student Supports & University Statements, Policies, and Guidelines](https://dalus.sharepoint.com/sites/learn-teach/SitePages/syllabus-appendix.aspx):

<https://dalus.sharepoint.com/sites/learn-teach/SitePages/syllabus-appendix.aspx>