

York University, Department of Economics
ECON 3550 Economic Growth and Development
Fall 2016

Instructor: Andrea Podhorsky
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Office Hours: Fridays, 10:30 – 11:30 am
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Class Time and Location: Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, Rm SC 222

Course Description:

This course studies the economic problems of poor countries and poor communities. We will explore the meaning of development by analyzing the characteristics of economic underdevelopment, poverty, income and wealth distribution, rural versus urban development, population growth, and unemployment and migration. Additional topics include theories of development, growth and technological change, strategies for environmentally sustainable development, education, and health.

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 and AP/ECON 1010 3.00 or equivalents. Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON/ILST 3920 3.00, AP/ECON 3559 3.00. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusions: AK/ECON 3550 3.00, AS/ECON 3310 3.00.

Required Course Materials:

Text: Development Economics by Debraj Ray¹

Evaluation:

Midterm*	50%	October 19
Final Exam	50%	TBA

* Note that the midterm is optional however it is highly recommended that you write the midterm. If the midterm is not written, or if the grade on the final exam is greater than the grade that you received on the midterm, the final exam will be given the full weight of 100%.

Important Dates:

Last date to enroll without permission of course instructor	September 21
Last date to enroll with permission of course instructor	October 5
Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade	November 11
Course withdrawal period	November 12 – December 5

Policy on Make-up/Deferred Exams and Assignments:

No permission will be given to a student to write an exam prior to the dates given above. No make-up exam will be given for the midterm exam. The deferred exam for the final exam will be granted **only for medical reasons**. In such cases students should submit a deferred exam application together with the supporting documents (attending physician's statement) to the economics department to my attention. The date and time of the deferred exam will be set at a later date. Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

¹ See <http://www.econ.nyu.edu/user/debraj>

Important Course Information:

Final course grades given by the instructor will use the standard York grading scale and may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available from the York University website:

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures (Academic Integrity Website)
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards and Grading/Feedback Policy
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Topics:*

September 14	Introduction and Overview (Chapters 1, 2)
September 21	Economic Growth (Chapter 3)
September 28	The New Growth Theories (Chapter 4)
October 5	History, Expectations, and Development (Chapter 5)
October 12	Review
October 19	Midterm
October 26	Economic Inequality (Chapter 6)
November 2	Inequality and Development: Interconnections (Chapter 7)
November 9	Poverty and Undernutrition (Chapter 8)
November 16	Population Growth and Economic Development (Chapter 9)
November 23	Rural and Urban (Chapter 10)
November 30	Review

* While supplemental readings may be added during the course of the semester, we will follow the text closely. It is strongly recommended that assigned readings be completed prior to attending class.