

**University  
of Victoria**

Economics

# ECON 320 A01 Economic Development

Winter Session: 2024 09 – CRN 11106, 1.5 Unit

## UVic Land Acknowledgement

*We acknowledge and respect the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

## Course Information

Location: **Cornett Building, Room A221**

Time: **Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 4:30 pm – 5:20 pm**

Delivery Mode: **Face-to-face**

## Lecturer and TA info

**Instructor Name: Chris Chen**

**Office:** BEC 318

**E-Mail:** ChrisChen@uvic.ca

**Office Hours:** Mondays 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, in-person. Or by appointment.

- MS Teams meeting is also available during office hours and by appointment.
- Search Chris Chen or email address in MS Teams to leave a message if you prefer.

**TA Name: Jiaxuan Zhang**

**Office:** TBD

**Email:** jiaxuanz@uvic.ca

**Office Hours:** TBD

## Important Dates:

- Classes start: Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>
- Reading break: Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>
- Classes end: Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>
- Exam period: Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

## Statutory Holidays (University Closure)

- Labour Day: Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

- Thanksgiving Day: Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
- Remembrance Day: Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Break Closure: Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

## Course Add and Drop Dates

Term	Start Date	End date	100% fee reduction	Add deadline	50% fee reduction	Academic drop no fee reduction
Fall	Sep 4 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 20 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>

## Course Content

*An introduction to issues and policy problems faced by developing economies. Covers key principles, concepts and measurement issues, empirical facts and analytical perspectives associated with economic development. Topics include human development, inequality and poverty, population growth, education, health and agriculture and rural development. Topics may also include urbanization and migration, role of credit markets, globalization, environment and other current issues in development.*

## Learning Outcomes

By successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand why development economics is a separate discipline in itself and how developing economies differ from the developed world
- Use metrics and criteria for comparing historical economic development
- Gain a theoretical understanding of poverty and inequality and use methods for calculating inequality
- Learn about historical trends and changes in population growth
- Apply the economic concepts of pricing, demand and supply to Education and Health in developing countries
- Understand how urbanization and labour markets work in developing countries
- Analyze the evidence available on solving these issues
- Develop a nuanced understanding of issues faced by developing economies and the complexity of solving these issues – rather than a simplistic general set of problems of the developing world as discussed in the popular media

## Course Pre-Requisites:

Complete one of the following:

- ECON 103 – Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 103C – Introduction to Principles of Microeconomics and Financial Project Evaluation
- ECON 180 - Introduction to Economics and Financial Project Evaluation

Complete ECON 104 – Principles of Macroeconomics.

Complete one of the following:

- ECON 225 – Writing of Economics
- ENGR 240 – Technical Writing

## Textbook

*Todaro, M.P. and S.C. Smith, Economic Development, 13<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson, Boston*

- *The 12<sup>th</sup> edition will suffice as well*

The textbook will cover most of the topics discussed in class, but the lectures may also be based on readings from other books. Specifically, the following textbooks:

- Schaffner, J., Development Economics: Theory, Empirical Research and Policy Analysis, Wiley, Hoboken.
- Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo, Poor Economics, Public Affairs

These textbooks are optional and not required.

There will be additional *OPTIONAL* readings from articles and chapters from other sources.

## Brightspace

- *Brightspace* is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently.

## Minimum Grade Requirements

This elective course has no Minimum Grade requirement. You should consult the academic calendar if you are a student pursuing an Honours degree.

## Grading

### Grading Scheme

The course grade is determined as follows:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • <b><u>FOUR</u></b> homework assignments:   | $5\% * 4 = 20\%$  |
| • <b><u>Two</u></b> in-person midterm exams: | $20\% * 2 = 40\%$ |
| • <b><u>ONE</u></b> Final exam:              | $40\% * 1 = 40\%$ |

## Mandatory/Essential Course Components

### Mid-term exam Component

Students who have completed at least ONE of the TWO mid-terms will be considered to have completed the course.

*Failure to complete at least ONE mid-term will result in a grade of N regardless of the cumulative percentage on the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.*

You must inform me as soon as possible if you cannot take a mid-term exam. Usually, a deferred exam will be taken if there is a good reason for being unable to participate in the exams on the scheduled date (e.g., health reasons, family emergencies, etc.). Exceptions will only be granted if fully justified. In rare circumstances, the student may be allowed to transfer the weight of their missing mid-term exam to the other.

### **Final Exam Component**

*Students must pass the final exam to pass the course. Failure to pass the Final Exam will result in a grade of N regardless of the cumulative percentage of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.*

For the Final Exam, the university schedules deferred sessions if you cannot take it on the scheduled date.

*In summary, students are expected to:*

- *Participate in at least ONE mid-term exams, and*
- *Participate in AND obtain a minimum of 50% in the Final Exam.*

*To not result in an N grade.*

### Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

#### **Assignment(s):**

Each assignment will be available on Brightspace a week before the due date. Students will have a week to complete and hand them in by the end of the class.

Due dates are as follows:

- September 19<sup>th</sup>
- October 10<sup>th</sup>
- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

#### **Midterm(s):**

- Mid-term 1 is scheduled for Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, in class.
  - Mid-term 1 covers Chapter 1 of the textbook
- Mid-term 2 is scheduled for Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, in class.
  - Mid-term 2 covers Chapters 2 and 6 of the textbook

**Final exam:** TBD. The fall term exam timetables are posted at the end of October.

### Grading Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F or N
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90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	50-59	0-49
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Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

## Missing Assessments or Mid-terms

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and to provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#). I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions.

### Missing assignments:

Students can miss up to 1 out of the 4 assignments; the weight of the missed assignments will be evenly distributed among the remaining assignments.

### Missing Mid-terms:

Students are expected to participate in at least ONE mid-term to pass the course. If a student misses a mid-term, the weight of the missing mid-term will be transferred to the assignment, the other mid-term, and the final exam in a 1:2:2 ratio.

e.g., if a student misses a mid-term that accounts for 20% of the final grade, the 20% will be divided by 5 and distributed between assignments, mid-terms and final exam components. The weight of the assignments will become 24%, the weight of the mid-terms will become 28%, and the weight of the final exam will become 48%.

**In case you miss the final exam, fill in a [request for a deferral](#).**

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

**Please note that the assessment and mid-term components during the term have built-in flexibility for all students, as you can miss 1 out of the 4 assignments and one midterm without losing weight on course components, rendering the need for in-course concessions via special arrangements unnecessary.**

## Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity

- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance:

## Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. **Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.**

## Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please review.

## University Policies

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness](#) - The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

## Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca).

## Resources for Students

[UVic Learn Anywhere](#) - UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#) - Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Centre for Academic Communication](#) - Offers coaching on [academic integrity](#), including preventing accidental plagiarism. Provides support to students with time management, reading, writing, speaking, understanding academic expectations, and other aspects of academic communication as well as creating academic posters, blogposts, PowerPoint slides, and e-portfolios.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students

- Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus. Before, during and after your time at UVic, you are encouraged to explore programs and services available to you, such as [Indigenous counselling services](#) and the [Elders in Residence](#), as well as non-academic programs that may be of interest to you.

[International Student Support](#) - The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the

primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive programs through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program.

For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Brooklynn Comish-Trimble, [ecadvice@uvic.ca](mailto:ecadvice@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#).

The International Student Liaison in the Economics Department is Dr. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is [schure@uvic.ca](mailto:schure@uvic.ca). Please, reach out if you are interested.

## Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

## Course Structure

Topic	Chapter	Week	Due Dates and Exam Information
Introduction, Characterizing Development	Ch 1 and Readings	1	
Etymology of Development; Critiques of Development Economics	Ch 1 and Readings	2	
Why Development is not just Income Increase; GDP Comparison Issues	Ch 1 and Readings	3	Assignment 1 due
Human Development Index	Readings	4	Mid-term 1
Defining the Development World; The East Asian Growth Miracle; Convergence and Divergence	Readings	5	
Comparative Economics Development	Ch 2	6	Assignment 2 Due
Population Growth	Ch 6	7	



Health and Education	Ch 8 and Readings	8	Mid-term 2
Rural-Urban Migration; Behavioral Economics Insights	Ch 7 and Readings	9	
Inequality and Poverty	Ch 3	10	Assignment 3 due
<i>Reading Break</i>		11	Reading Break
Poverty. Multidimensional Poverty	Ch 3	12	
Empirical Evidence on Effective Policymaking for Inequality and Poverty	Ch 3 and Readings	13	Assignment 4 due, Classes end on Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>

## E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear...), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

## Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are permitted in class, given that you don't disturb others.

Recording is your right as a student, but please avoid recording personal discussions and self-disclosure by other students.

**Setting all devices on mute during class is required.**

## Use of AI

In general, the use of Generative AI is not allowed in this course. The exceptions are spell check and grammar-fixing use cases of AI, such as the use of Grammarly, which is permitted in this course.

As mentioned before, the university reserves the right to deploy plagiarism software to detect violations of academic integrity. Many of these kinds of software now include the detection of AI usage. Be mindful of your usage of Generative AI.