

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECS 4013**

Economic Development

Fall 2024

Instructor: Elias Dinopoulos
Office: 310 Matherly Hall
E-mail: dinopoe@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:40 pm – 3:00 pm, also by appointment
Zoom Appointments: Please email me at least one day before the appointment to set up the time. Use my Zoom address: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6170314670> (no password required).

SYLLABUS

Course Description: In this class, we will analyze the economics of development in poor (low-income) countries. We will cover topics such as economic growth, physical and human capital accumulation, productivity and technological change, income and resource inequality, poverty, household decisions, education, and the role of international trade and government in the process of development. The course will present theoretical and empirical approaches to economic development problems and identify policies contributing to poverty alleviation.

Prerequisites: The course will emphasize the conceptual framework of development economics. The framework's building blocks consist of data tables, graphs, algebra, and occasional use of calculus. You must have taken introductory microeconomics and introductory macroeconomics (ECO 2013 and ECO 2023) to take the course. The course will also utilize analytical techniques developed in intermediate economics (ECO 3101).

Textbooks (required):

Julie Schaffner *Development Economics: Theory, Empirical Research, and Policy Analysis*, First Edition, 2014, Wiley.

David N. Weil, *Economic Growth*, Third Edition, 2013, Pearson.

These books are designated as *Schaffner and Weil* below.

Lecture Notes: PowerPoint lecture notes are available in Canvas.

Exams: There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. Each exam will consist of problem/essay questions similar to the practice questions in class. Exams are closed books, closed notes, and no phone or computer use. Calculators (no phone calculators, though) are allowed. Exam 1 will cover parts 1 and 2 of the course outline, and Exam 2 will cover parts 3 and 4 (see below).

Practice-problem-based extra credit: There are five practice-problem sets available in Canvas. Students

can earn extra credit points by submitting answers to these practice problems before I post the answers to Canvas. Submitted practice problems will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Students can earn a maximum of five points by submitting answers by the following deadlines:

Practice Problem 1: Thursday, September 12, in class.

Practice Problem 2: Thursday, September 26, in class.

Practice Problem 3: Thursday, October 10, in class.

Practice Problem 4: Thursday, October 24, in class.

Practice Problem 5: Thursday, November 14, in class.

Exam Dates: Exam 1: **Tuesday, October 15**, in class; Exam 2: **Tuesday, December 3**, in class.

Attendance-based extra-credit assignments: During each lecture, I will post one multiple-choice (MC) question based on the material covered in the lecture. Students who answer the question correctly will receive extra credit worth one point. The extra credit score will be based on the number of correct answers divided by the number of lectures times 10. For example, if there are 25 lectures and a student has answered 20 MC questions correctly, then they will receive $(20/25)10 = 8$ attendance-based extra credits.

Students interested in receiving extra credit must download the extra-credit form (word file) from Canvas (files>extra-credit form) and complete the first part by **typing** their last and first names using upper case characters. Please bring to class a printed version of the form, which will be used to answer the multiple-choice questions posted. **Students who do not bring forms with their typed names in class will not receive extra credit.**

Grades: The following formula will calculate the final grade: Final class score = Average numerical score of the two exams plus total (practice-problem and attendance-based) extra credit points received. For example, according to the following Grade Distribution table, a student who receives 79 in exam 1, 85 in exam 2, 3 practice problem extra-credit points, and eight attendance-based extra points will obtain a final class score equal to $(79+85)/2+11 = 93$, which corresponds to a class letter grade of A. Without the extra credit points, the student's final class score is $(79+85)/2=82$, corresponding to a B class letter grade. Of course, a student who receives 93 in each exam and no extra credit will receive a class score of 93, which corresponds to a class letter grade of A.

Grade Distribution

Score Range	Letter Grade
93.00 or greater	A
90.00 - 92.99	A-
85.00 - 89.99	B+
80.00 - 84.99	B
75.00 - 79.99	B-
70.00 - 74.99	C+
65.00 - 69.99	C
60.00 - 64.99	C-
55.00 - 59.99	D+
50.00 - 54.99	D
45.00 - 49.99	D-
0.00 - 44.99	E

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation must first register with the DRC and send me the necessary documentation (letter of accommodation). The DRC phone number is 392-8565, and its website is <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>.

Class Attendance: Attendance is not required but highly recommended and is encouraged through the extra-credit assignments. Exams are based on the material covered in class, which may or may not be covered in the two textbooks. You are still responsible for what was covered if you do not come to class. If you do come to class, I expect you to behave professionally by arriving on time, turning off your cell phone, and refraining from texting during class.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction and Overview

Schaffner, Chapter 1, “What is Development Economics Good for?”
Weil, Chapter 1, “The Facts to be Explained.”
Schaffner, Chapter 2, “Well-Being.”

2. Economic Growth and Development

Weil, Chapter 3, “Physical Capital.”
Weil, Chapter 4, “Population and Economic Growth.”
Weil, Chapter 6, “Human Capital.”
Schaffner, Chapter 19, “Education.”

3. Technology, Poverty and Inequality

Weil, Chapter 8, “The Role of Technology in Growth.”
Schaffner, Chapter 5, “Poverty, Inequality, and Vulnerability.”
Weil, Chapter 12, “Government.”
Weil, Chapter 13, “Income Inequality.”

4. Decisions, Markets and Institutions

Schaffner, Chapter 6, “Consumption, Time Allocation, and Production Choices.”
Schaffner, Chapter 8, “Domestic Markets for Goods and Services.”
Krugman, Paul, Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc Melitz, Chapter 11, “Trade Policy in Developing Countries,” *International Economics: Theory and Policy*, Tenth Edition, 2015, Pearson.
Responsible for only the PP slide lecture notes available in Canvas (*files>Lecture Notes*).
Weil, Chapter 11. “Growth in the Open Economy.”

5. Policy Controversies (time permitting)

Amiti Mary, Stephen Redding, and David Weinstein (2019), "The Impact of 2018 Tariffs on Prices and Welfare," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33, 4, Fall 2019, pp. 187-210.

Mariotti, Sergio, "A Warning from the Russian-Ukrainian War: Avoiding a Future that Rhymes with the Past," *Journal of Industrial and Business Economics*, July 2022.