

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

**Fall 2022**

**Instructor:** Elias Dinopoulos  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:40 pm – 3:00 pm, also by appointment  
**Zoom Link:** <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6170314670>

**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 will identify policies contributing to poverty alleviation.

**Prerequisites:** The emphasis of the course will be on the conceptual framework of development economics. The building blocks of the framework 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 with each exam worth 100 points. Each exam will consist of problem/essay type questions similar to the practice questions distributed in class. Exams will be taken in person, are closed book, closed notes, no phone use, no 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 of the course outline (see below).

**Exam Dates:** Exam 1: **Thursday, October 13**, in class; Exam 2: **Tuesday, December 6**, in class.

**Attendance-based extra-credit assignments:** During each lecture, I will post one multiple-choice question based on the material covered in the lecture. Students who answer the question correctly will receive extra credit worth half (0.5) point.

**Extra-credit form:** 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 name. Please bring in class a printed version of the form which will be used to answer the multiple-choice question posted. Students who do not bring extra-credit forms with their printed names in class will not receive extra credit.

**Grades:** The following formula will be used to calculate the class final grade: Final class score = Average numerical score of the two exams plus total extra-credit points received. For example, a student who receives 79 in exam 1, 85 in exam 2 and 8.5 extra-credit points will obtain a final class score equal to  $(79+85)/2+8.5=90.5$  which corresponds to a class letter grade of A-. Without the extra-credit points the student's final class score is  $(79+85)/2=82$  which corresponds to a class letter grade of B according to the following table, which translates final class scores into letter grades.

**Grade Distribution**

<b>Score Range</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
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 accommodations must first register with the DRC and send me the necessary documentation (letter of accommodations) via e-mail.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is 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. If you do not come to class, you are still responsible for what was covered. 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 of only the PP slide lecture notes available in Canvas (*files>Lecture Notes*).  
Weil, Chapter 11. “Growth in the Open Economy”.

### 5. Policy Controversies

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.  
Kharas, Homi and Megan Dooley, “Extreme Poverty in the Time of COVID-19”, mimeo, May 2021.  
Deaton, Angus, “COVID-19 and Global Income Distribution”, NBER Working Paper 28392, February 2021.  
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.

### 6. Additional Topics

Schaffner, Chapter 13, “Policy, Governance, and Political Economy”  
Schaffner, Chapter 17, “Agricultural Market Interventions and Reforms”  
Schaffner, Chapter 11, “International Markets and General Equilibrium”.