

## Course Syllabus

### 1. Course Information

**Title:** ECONOMICS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: ECO.3018.01 (3 Credits)

**Semester & Year:** Fall 2018

**Schedule:** M R 3:00-4:15 pm

**Location:** BR 204

**Gen Ed. Designations:** LA Liberal Arts, SSD Soc. GE09 Sci. Distr., SSR GE16 Soc. Sci. Reasoning, IC3 GE16 Africa Asia Mid East, WRC GE16 Written Comm.

**Pre-requisites:** ECO 1001 Principles of Microeconomics and ECO 1002 Principles of Macroeconomics

### 2. Instructor Information

**Name:** Nimish Adhia

**Email:** nimish.adhia@mville.edu

**Office Location:** Castle (Reid Hall) 418, **but office hours will be held in the library cafe**

**Office Hours:** W 4:30-6:30 pm, F 2:00-3:00 pm, and by appointment

### 3. Course Description

The course deals with the specific problems and issues of developing economies such as growth, poverty, demographic transition, development policy and global integration. Topics covered include meaning and measurement of development, growth models, institutions, foreign aid, measurement of development effectiveness and the impact of poverty-alleviation programs.

### 4. Course Learning Objectives

Upon successfully completing the course, a student will be able to:

1. recount the various dimensions along which the lives of people in richer countries differ from the lives of people in poorer countries.
2. describe when, where and to what extent economic development has taken place so far.
3. explain the multi-dimensional nature of economic development and the relationship between the different dimensions.
4. demonstrate mastery in the use of commonly used development indicators.
5. explain divergent viewpoints regarding the role of public policy in promoting economic development.
6. describe the factors that facilitate capital accumulation, its role of such accumulation in economic growth, and the limitations of that role.
7. describe some health, education, demography, and governance related challenges that are particular to developing countries,

## 5. Required Materials

1. Banerjee, Abhijit, and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the way to Fight Global Poverty*. <http://a.co/d/4ETmZnS>
2. Guest, Robert. 2013. *The Shackled Continent: Africa's Past, Present and Future*. Smithsonian Press. <http://a.co/d/4MBMSGN>
3. Packet of various readings handed out in class

## 6. Use of Technology

You will need a computer with internet access since all homework assignments will have to be uploaded on the course Blackboard site.

## 7. Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the definitions, procedures and sanctions outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy, which is located in the Course Catalog.

## 8. Accommodations

Students must be registered with the [Center for Student Accommodations](#) in order to receive academic accommodations. If you require accommodations and have not registered with the Center please contact the Director of the Accommodations Center. The center is located on the main floor of the Library, room 134. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive.

## 9. Grading Policy

Your numerical course grade will be a weighted average of your grade in the following three categories: average percentage grade of homework (HW) assignments, final exam, and the grade for professional behavior (as assigned by the instructor). The weights to be used are below.

Grade Category	Weight
Average of HW Assignments	0.60
Final Exam	0.20
Professional Behavior Grade	0.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Finally, your numerical course grade will be converted to a letter grade using this standardized college-wide grading scale.

Grading Scale			
93-100%	A	77-79.9	C+
90-92.9	A-	73-76.9	C
87-89.9	B+	70-72.99	C-
83-86.9	B	60-69.99	D
80-82.9	B-	< 60	F

## **10. Attendance Policy**

Attendance in this class is required. After the first two weeks of the semester, everyone is allowed a total of 3 absences, excused or unexcused. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, so you do not need to send me an email asking to be excused or send me a doctor's note. After you have been absent 3 times (absences in the first two weeks of the course will be not be counted towards this number), every absence will cost you 2 percentage point out of the 15% points for professional behavior. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class, so please be on time or you will be marked absent. If you anticipate being absent for more than 3 times because of a documented medical condition or other compelling reasons, come talk to me.

## **11. Classroom Cell-phone and Laptop Usage Policy**

Cell-phone use is prohibited when class is in session. You may use the cellphone before the class is about to begin or during breaks. At other times, however, the cellphone should not be present even on your desk. I require that students put away their cellphones where they cannot hear/feel the cellphone alerts.

There will be times when I will ask you to use your laptop in class. Using the laptop for purpose other than those I have asked you to use it for is prohibited.

This policy has been formulated in order to create an atmosphere in the classroom that is free of distractions and is conducive to learning. If I observe you violating the policy, I may or may not call you out in class. But I will conclude that you have trouble following norms of professional behavior. Such a conclusion will result in (i) you getting a low grade for professional behavior, (ii) me declining to write you a letter of recommendation in the future, (iii) me flagging your infraction in the college's internal "Starfish" system.

## **12. Email Etiquette**

I prefer email as the primary method of communication outside of class.

When emailing any instructor, it is generally a good idea to use your Mville e-mail address and identify yourself by full name and course number. Place the course number, followed by the subject of the e-mail, in the subject line, use professional language (no "Hi man!"), and allow for a reasonable response time.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a delayed response or no response at all.

If you miss a class, you do not need to email me asking to be excused. Remember that you are permitted 3 absences for any reason at all, and I do not care what the reason for such absences is.

Refrain from emailing to ask what you missed during your absence(s) before first trying to get such information from your classmates. Your professor should not be the primary go-to source for seeking such information. But feel free to seek from the instructor any clarifications that were not provided by your classmates.

## **13. Professional Behavior**

One of the goals of college is to get students to develop the habit of acting professionally. Thus 20% of your grade in this course will be based on your demonstration of professional behavior. In your role as a college student, acting professionally involves (i) following classroom norms, such as those described in attendance and cell-phone usage policies of the syllabus, (ii) taking interest in the course (iii) taking initiative to identify obstacles to your learning and seeking help, (iv) completing all readings and assignments on time.

## **14. Homework Assignments**

There are total of 7 homework assignments in this course. The assignments will require students to synthesize and integrate the content of readings. The assignments, will be due always on a Sunday at 11:00 pm and will need to be uploaded on Blackboard.

There will be a 20% grade penalty for each day an assignment is submitted late. So an assignment submitted more than 5 days late will earn a grade of zero. I understand that there will be a time when a student will not, for a valid or an inexcusable reason, be able to complete the assignment by the due date. So that an occasional lapse doesn't affect your grade too much, I will drop each student's lowest grade before calculating the average grade of homework assignments.

The homework assignments will require you to explain the author's ideas. In doing so you must rely on paraphrasing or summarizing the author's text rather than a quotation

## 15. Course Calendar

Month	Week	Readings to be completed	Mon	Thu	Sun (assignments)
Aug 2018	Week 1	Guest, Introduction "Why is Africa so Poor?" Guest, Ch. 1 "The Vampire State"	27 Intro. to Course	30 Film Screening	2
Sep 2018	Week 2	Guest, Ch.2 "Digging Diamonds, Digging Graves"	3 Labor Day- No Class	6 Film Screening	9 Assignment 1. <i>African Economies</i> due
	Week 3	Cowen and Tabbarok, Ch. 25 "The Wealth of Nations and Economic Growth" (part of course packet handed out in class)	10 Intro to Developing Countries	13 Basics of Economic Growth	16 Assignment 2. <i>On the film Pather Panchali</i> due
	Week 4	Cowen and Tabbarok, Ch. 27 "Saving, Investment and the Financial System" (part of course packet handed out in class)	17 Basics of Economic Growth	20 Basics of Economic Growth	23
	Week 5	Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 2 "A Billion Hungry People?"	24 Basics of Economic Growth	27 Nutrition and Health	30 Assignment 3. <i>Basics of Economic Growth</i> due
	Week 6	Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 2 "Low Hanging Fruit of Global Health?"	1 Nutrition and Health	4 Nutrition and Health	7
Oct 2018	Week 7	Roodman, Ch. 2 "How the Other Half Finances" (part of course packet handed out in class)	8 Fall Break- No Class	11 Financial Services	14 Assignment 4. <i>Nutrition and Health</i> due
	Week 8	Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 8 "Saving Brick by Brick"	15 Financial Services	18 Financial Services	21
	Week 9	Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 6 "Barefoot Hedge-Fund Managers"	22 Financial Services	25 Financial Services	28 Assignment 5. <i>Financial Services-I</i> due
	Week 10	Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 7 The Men from Kabul and the Eunuchs of India	29 Financial Services	1 Financial Services	4
	Week 11	Guest, Ch.6 "Fair Trade, Free Trade" Guest, Ch.7 "Of Potholes and Grasping Gendarmes"	5 Trade	8 Trade	11 Assignment 6. <i>Financial Services-II</i> due
Nov 2018	Week 12	Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 5 "Pak Sudarno's Big Family"	12 Population	15 Population	18
	Week 13	TBA	19 Population	22 Thanksgiving- No Class	25
	Week 14	TBA	26 TBA	29 TBA	2 Assignment 7. <i>Population</i> due
	Week 15	TBA	3 TBA	6 TBA	9
Dec 2018	Finals Week		10 Final EXAM Date TBA	13 Final EXAM Date TBA	16

## How to Avoid Plagiarism While Summarizing or Paraphrasing

### **Original Text**

The failure of government-sponsored educational growth is once again due to the motto: people respond to incentives. If the incentives to invest in the future are not there, expanding education is worth little. Having the government force you to go to school does not change your incentives to invest in the future. Creating people with high skill in countries where the only profitable activity is lobbying the government for favors is not a formula for success.

### **Unacceptable Parphrase**

*Note: The following paraphrase would be considered plagiarism according to most standards of scholarly conduct because it merely changes a few words from the original text while preserving a lot of the author's original language and sentence structure. I have underlined parts that are unacceptably close to the original text.*

The failure of government sponsored educational growth is because people respond to incentives. If there are no incentives to invest in the future, there is no point going to school. Just because the government forces you to go to school does not create incentives to invest in the future. Creating educated people in countries where the only profitable activity is asking the government for favors does not lead to success.

### **Acceptable Parphrase**

*Note: The following paraphrase is acceptable because it does not use any language or sentence structure of the original passage. Using individual words from the original passage such as "schooling" "incentives" "government-sponsored" "economic growth" is ok. Using entire expressions from the original passage such as "government forces you to go to school" is not ok.*

According to Easterly, the expansion of publicly-funded compulsory schooling so far has not led to the expected economic growth because there are very few incentives in many societies to engage in productive economic activities. In many countries, the only remunerative activity seems to be taking away the wealth of others through government intervention. But that merely leads to the redistribution of the economic pie, rather than the expansion of it.

### **When to Quote the Author (with proper citation) in a Summary or a Parphrase**

Quotes (with proper citation) are to be used sparingly. Do not use quotes as a way to avoid doing the hard work of summarizing or paraphrasing. You should quote only when you feel that the language of the authors is so beautiful or memorable that the readers of your summary or paraphrase will miss out on something very substantial if they not read an idea expressed in the author's own language.