

**ECON 484-002
ECONOMIC GROWTH
Department of Economics
University of Waterloo
Winter 2016**

Meetings

Lecture time: Tuesday and Thursday 16:00-17:20

Lecture location: QNC 2501

Instructor information

Instructor: Francisco M. Gonzalez

Office: Hagey Hall 130

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 14:00-15:00

E-mail: francisco.gonzalez@uwaterloo.ca

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

Evaluation

Student performance will be evaluated through a collection of assignments, a midterm exams and a paper, with the following weights:

Assignments: 30%

Midterm exam: 40%

Paper: 30%

Students are expected to work in groups (about 3 students per group) on all assignments. Detailed information about assignments will be provided in class. The midterm exam will be held on March 1 and it will take place in the class period and the room classes are held.

Course outline

1. Capital accumulation

Mankiw, N.G., "The growth of nations", *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* 1, 1995, 275-326.

2. Productivity growth

Galor, O., "From stagnation to growth: unified growth theory", in P. Aghion and S. Durlauf (eds.), *Handbook of Economic Growth*, North-Holland 2005,

Boldrin, M. and D. Levine, "The case against patents", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2013

Gordon, R. , "Why innovation won't save us", *Wall Street Journal*, December 21, 2012.

Barro, R., "Notes on growth accounting", *Journal of Economic Growth*, June 1998, 119-137.

3. Institutions and culture

Olson, M., "Big bills left on the sidewalk: why some nations are rich, and others poor", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Spring 1996, 3-24.

Nunn N., "Historical development", in P. Aghion and S. Durlauf (eds.), *Handbook of Economic Growth*, North-Holland 2014, 347-402.

4. Global Inequality

Bourguignon, F., "A turning point in global inequality ... and beyond", World Bank 2011.

Deaton, A., "Measuring poverty", Research Program in Development Studies, Princeton University 2004.

Autor, D., "U.S. labor market challenges over the longer term", paper prepared for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, October 2010.

Alvaredo, F., A.B. Atkinson, T. Piketty and E. Saez, "The top 1 percent in international and historical perspective", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Summer 2013, 3-20.

5. Rent seeking

Kanbur, R. and J. Stiglitz, "Wealth and income distribution: new theories needed for a new era", *Vox*, August 18, 2015.

Gonzalez, F.M., "The use of coercion in society: insecure property rights, conflict and economic backwardness", in M. Garfinkel and S. Skaperdas (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Peace and Conflict*, Oxford University Press, 2012, 633-675.

Acemoglu, D. and J.A. Robinson, "Economics versus politics: pitfalls of policy advice", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Spring 2013, 173-192.

6. Quality of life

Stevenson, B. and J. Wolfers, "Subjective well-being and income: is there any evidence of satiation?", *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings*, May 2013,

Sen, A., "Quality of Life: India vs. China", *The New York Review of Books*, May 12, 2011.

Weekly schedule

1. Jan. 5, Jan. 7: macroeconomic theory
2. Jan. 12, Jan. 14: capital accumulation
3. Jan. 19, Jan. 21: productivity growth
4. Jan. 26, Jan. 28: innovation
5. Feb. 2, Feb. 4: growth accounting
6. Feb. 9, Feb. 11: institutions and culture
7. Feb. 16, Feb. 18: READING WEEK
8. Feb. 23, Feb. 25: global inequality
9. March 1, March 3:
 - March 1: MIDTERM EXAM
 - March 3: rent seeking
10. March 8, March 10: conflict and growth
11. March 15, March 17: PRESENTATIONS
12. March 22, March 24: economics and politics
13. March 29, March 31: quality of life

Statements and links to be included on all course outlines:

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71)

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70), Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

Other sources of information for students:

[Academic Integrity website \(Arts\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour)

https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour

[Academic Integrity Office \(UWaterloo\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services) office (https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you are using Turnitin in your course

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin® in this course. (Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin ®. See [guidelines for instructors](#) for more information.)