

Syllabus
Economics 207
Economic Growth and Development 1
Winter 2017

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday: 11:45am-12:45pm
Wednesday: 2pm-3pm

Meetings:

This class meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am-11:20am in DWE 3522A.

Overview:

This course is intended as a broad and relatively non-technical overview of both facts and theories related to economic growth. The main focus will be on understanding the substantial increase in average living standards that has taken place in industrialized economies over the past two centuries.

The objectives of the course are:

- to familiarize you, at least in broad strokes, with the historical record of economic growth across and within geographical regions along a number of dimensions (income, health, etc...)
- to document the relationship between increases in average living standards and the key drivers of productivity growth
- to examine the conditions under which economies have and have not delivered sustained productivity growth

Textbook:

The textbook for the class is: Weil, David N. Economic Growth (2013) 3rd Edition

If you buy your books from the University bookstore, be aware that the book is very expensive, so you should probably not buy it unless you are sure you are going to use it extensively. I will place a copy of the book on course reserve at the library. For the purposes of this course, older editions of the book are perfectly fine.

I will post additional readings on UWLearn as the semester progresses. Many of these will be journal articles, which can be accessed electronically. Others will be books, which I will place on course reserve at the library.

Evaluation:

There will be two Midterm Exams, each worth 20% of the final grade. The Midterm Exams will take place in class, during regularly scheduled class times, on the following dates:

Midterm 1: Thursday, February 2nd, and
Midterm 2: Thursday, March 9th.

There will be a Final Exam, which will be worth 30% of the final grade. The Final Exam will take place during the final examination period, and will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The final exam schedule is to be released on Feb. 8th.

There will be several graded homework Assignments throughout the semester. These will (collectively) be worth 15% of the final grade. I will post the assignments on Learn at least 10 days prior to the due dates. The Assignments are to be handed in in class.

There will be one major Essay (a book report), also worth 15% of the final grade. I will post details of the Essay on Learn. The Essay is due in class on March 30th.

Policy on Missed Exams and Assignments:

No make-up exams will be provided for missed Midterm Exams. A student who does not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero on a missed Midterm Exam and her/his final grade will be computed in accordance with the formula specified above. For students who do have a relevant medical certificate the weight from the missed Midterm Exam will be applied to the Final Exam.

Late Assignments will not be accepted. I will drop the lowest Assignment, so you can miss one Assignment without penalty. If medical accommodation is warranted for additional Assignments, the weight from these missed Assignments will be applied to the Final Exam.

Late Essays will not be accepted. An exception to this rule will be made for students requiring medical accommodation.

Accommodation for missed Final Exams is adjudicated by the Economics Department according to the Department's policy on Deferred Final Exams. Information regarding this policy can be found at the link below. Be aware that the Department's policy requires you to request accommodation within 2 business days of the missed exam.

[Economics Deferred Examination Policy](#)

Outline of Topics:

1. Introduction

2. Measurement and Data

- income across time
- income across countries
- income inequality
- demography, population, and labour
- health
- environment

3. Sources of Productivity Growth

- capital
- human capital
- trade
- technology

4. “Deep” sources of growth

- geography
- culture
- institutions

5. Additional topics throughout the semester, as time and interest allows

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

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](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

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](#), Section 4 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72\)](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, 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.