

**Syllabus**  
Economics 207  
Economic Growth and Development 1  
Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Matthew Doyle  
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**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday: 9:30-11am

**Meetings:**

This class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30-9:20 in PAS 2083

**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) 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

If you buy your books from the University bookstore, be aware that this book is very expensive. 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.

**Evaluation:**

There will be two midterm exams, each worth 35% of the final grade. The midterm exams will take place in class, during regularly scheduled class times, on the following dates:

Midterm 1: Friday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, and  
Midterm 2: Friday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

There will be one major essay, worth 30% of the final grade. I will post details of the Essay on Learn. The Essay is due in class on Dec. 3rd.

**Policy on Missed Exams and Assignments:**

A student who does not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero on a missed midterm exam and that student's grade will be computed in accordance with the formula specified above. The grade of a student who misses one midterm exam due to a properly documented medical issue will be calculated as the average of the grade of the remaining midterm exam and the essay. A student who misses both midterm exams due to properly documented medical issue must write a make up exam combining the weight of both midterms (i.e. 70% of the course grade). The combined exam will cover the same range of topics as the two midterm exams. This exam will be written along with the Econ Department's deferred inal exams (this typically occurs on a date at the end of the Fall semester's final exam period).

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

## **Outline of Topics:**

1. Introduction
2. Measurement and Data
  - income across time
  - income across countries
  - income inequality
  - demography, population, and labour
  - health
  - environment
3. Malthusian Dynamics
4. Sources of Productivity Growth
  - capital accumulation
  - technological progress
5. “Deep” sources of growth
  - geography
  - institutions
  - culture
6. Additional topics throughout the semester, as time and interest allows

## Statements and links to be included on all course outlines

### 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 and Discipline

**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. See the [Office of 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. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. 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](#).

### Grievances and Appeals

**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. 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](#).

### Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

**Note for students with disabilities:** The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (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.