



INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES
FRANCE • SPAIN • MOROCCO



The AMERICAN COLLEGE
of the MEDITERRANEAN

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SPRING 2022

ECO 304

3 credits

Professor Sarah McIntosh

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Office hours: by appointment

ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main losers in today's very unequal world are not those who are too much exposed to globalization. They are those who have been left out.

Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the United Nations, 2000

Over the past half century, economic globalization has brought about a fundamental change in the world economy. Enormous progress has also been made in many dimensions of development in almost all countries. However, even today the living standards of hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people have benefited little, if at all, from rising global prosperity and huge challenges remain, especially related to inequality and the environment.

This course is an introduction to the study of economic circumstances and problems of low and middle-income economies. It considers the contribution that economics can make to explaining why some nations are poor and others rich. It reviews alternative theories of economic growth and development and examines a number of specific issues central to the lives of billions of people who live in developing countries.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to:

- Give students an understanding of the wide diversity across the developing world in the extent of economic development and differing positions in the global economy.
- Help students progressively build skills in applying development economic concepts and tools to confronting development problems and real-life policy choices.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Understand real conditions and institutions across the developing world
2. Compare and assess different models of economic growth and development
3. Analyze contemporary debates and policies related to development issues
4. Interpret and present data on developing economies

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The method is to ask interesting questions first and then to introduce the material, concepts and tools to help answer them. The course will rely largely on discussion and activities, including classroom games, case studies and data exercises. For this format to work you are expected to read and think about the assigned material before class.

Whenever possible the course will use examples and make applications to the real world and other courses. At the beginning of the semester each student will choose a developing country as a focus of particular study for certain activities and assignments.

The course is taught by a policy economist who has worked with governments in Europe, Africa and Asia, specifically on impact evaluation. It has a particular emphasis therefore on introducing you to some of what economists do professionally. The course will also draw on students' knowledge and experiences to make connections to other disciplines and contexts.

V. PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

The primary course textbook is:

Todaro, M.P., and Smith, S.C. (2015) *Economics of Development*. 12th ed. Harlow, UK: Pearson.

Although the textbook does review most essential economics, if you have not taken a first-year principles course, then you may need to supplement your reading. Let me know during the first class and we can work out how best to support you.

Additional course material will be posted on Teams.

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING

			What	Why	When
Reading quizzes	25 points each	20%	Regular online quizzes with a focus on basic knowledge	To help guide your reading and provide the common ground for class discussion and activities	Weekly

			and understanding		
Class attendance and participation	100 points	10%	Skill-based system to assess participation	To motivate participation skill building across a variety of dimensions	Through out
Class activities	200 points	20%	E.g., class games, case studies and data exercises	To provide a low-stakes assessment of your effort to understand the material	Through out
Developing country profile	150 points	15%	A two-page brief on your developing country	To summarize data on your developing country and use this context as a basis to inform your subsequent research	Thursday 3 March
Final research project	350 points	35%	A five-page policy brief on a topic of your choice for your developing country	To integrate and apply the knowledge and skills that you have learned in the course	Thursday 28 April

All assignments should be submitted on Teams. Extensions require one full day's advance approval from mer. Grading rubrics will be provided for all assignment prompts and for class attendance and participation. Students can at any time get an idea of their overall grade themselves using the tool provided.

As per IAU's attendance policy, attendance will be part of your final grade. Two unexcused absences are tolerated. Any other unexcused absence will affect the final grade. The following are considered as excused absences: absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is required); emergencies.

VII. CALENDAR

The course schedule is presented below. We may discover that we want to spend more time on certain topics and less time on others. I will consider changing the schedule if such a change would benefit most students' learning in this course.

Unit 1. Development and growth

Week	Dates	Topic
1	TH 27/01	Introduction to the course
2	TU 01/02 TH 03/02	Introducing economic development

3	TU 08/02 TH 10/02	Comparative economic development
4	TU 15/02 TH 17/02	Classic theories of economic growth and development
5	TU 22/02 TH 24/02	Modern theories of development and underdevelopment
6	TU 01/03 TH 03/03	The roles of market, state and civil society

Unit 2. Distribution and human resources

Week	Dates	Topic
7	TU 08/03 TH 10/03	Inequality and poverty
8	TU 15/03 TH 17/03	Population
9	TU 22/03 TH 24/03	Education
10	TU 29/03 TH 31/03	Health

Unit 3. Policies for development

Week	Dates	Topic
11	TU 05/04 TH 07/04	Investment, savings and foreign aid
12	TU 12/04 TH 14/04	Spring break: NO CLASSES
13	TU 19/04 TH 21/04	Trade
14	TU 26/04 TH 28/04	Sustainable development and the environment
15	TU 03/05 TH 05/05	What next? and wrap-up