

Advanced Topics in Micro Development Economics
ECONOMICS EC2126F-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2024

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Office Hours: M 8:30-9:30am, W 8:30-9:30am
students should [reserve](#) an appointment slot (office hours will be held in-person and via Zoom)
Delivery Mode: In-person
Meeting Times: M 10:30-11:30, W 10:30-12:30
Classroom: UCC-60
Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>
Undergraduate Inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC 4078 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 2150A/B, 2152A/B, and 2123A/B**
The antirequisite for this course is **Economics 3324F/G**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Description/Overview:

This course will discuss topics in the field of micro development economics. The course will not provide an exhaustive review of all topics, but instead will introduce students to recent academic research on a subset of relevant topics. We will focus primarily on empirical

research but will also discuss the economic theory and econometric tools needed to understand this work. The course outline below provides a preliminary list of topics to be covered in the course.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Understand fundamental issues facing developing countries and the major areas of study within development economics
- Be able to read, critically analyze, and discuss academic economics research
- Be able to identify a research topic, compile relevant academic research, and synthesize information on existing knowledge and possible areas of future research into a literature review

Communication:

- Students should check the course Brightspace site regularly to keep up to date on assigned readings.
- When sending emails, please put “EC2126F” in the subject line.
- There will be a sign-up site for office hours. Students should reserve a 15-minute appointment slot ahead of time, or two appointment slots if necessary. If you cannot make a scheduled office hours appointment, please be sure to cancel so that other students may take that time. If you need to attend office hours via Zoom as opposed to in-person, please add a note when you make your appointment.

Textbook/Readings:

- A preliminary course outline for the topics we will cover throughout the semester is provided below. Required readings will be assigned on a weekly basis for each topic we cover in class. You should always read the assigned material prior to class in order to effectively engage in the class discussions.
- This course will rely on a combination of readings from textbook chapters and academic articles. In the case of textbook chapters, readings will be provided via Brightspace or will be freely available online through the library. Published journal articles should be available online through the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue or a search on Google Scholar (or the authors’ websites). The two textbooks we will refer to in this course are:
 - **DE:** *Development Economics*. Debraj Ray. Princeton University Press, 1998.
 - **UP:** *Understanding Poverty*. Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, Roland Benabou, and Dilip Mookherjee (eds). Oxford University Press, 2006.
- For those interested in additional materials on causal inference, the following textbooks are available online or online through the library:
 - **MHE:** *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Joshua D. Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke. Princeton University Press, 2009.
 - **CI:** *Causal Inference: The Mixtape*. Scott Cunningham. Yale University Press, 2021.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

- Complete all of the assigned readings prior to attending class.
- Attend class regularly and engage in classroom discussions.
- If you are confused about a topic being covered in class, ask questions during class or office hours.

Policy Regarding the Use of AI:

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering preliminary research purposes, and grammar/spelling checks. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allow them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

Students who choose to use AI for this course should use it as a **research tool** in the process of completing assignments and/or the final project. For each assignment, students **must turn in a written statement** along with the given assignment/final project that clearly explains how the student used AI in their work (if AI was not used, this should be stated); failure to do so may result in a severe grade penalty of at least one letter grade.

Assessments and Grading:

Note: Late assessments without official documentation and timely notification to the instructor will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero. Late assessments with documentation from Academic Counseling must be submitted within 24 hours of the assessment submission deadline. If assessments are missed for a prolonged period, with a valid excuse, the weight that would otherwise be applied to those assessments may be added to the weighting for the Quizzes or Final Project, at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Participation (10%)

- Students are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken in class via Brightspace (this will be further explained in September).
- Full marks for class participation require answering questions in class, asking questions, and contributing to discussions. Students may be randomly called on to answer questions in class if there is not active participation.

- There are 20 lecture and presentation classes for this course (excludes quiz days) and I will grade you on your participation in 18 of 20 classes. Due to the flexibility in this assessment, academic consideration through self-attestation will be denied.

Quizzes (30%)

- There will be three quizzes throughout the semester (tentative dates are included in the schedule below).
- The quizzes may be comprised of calculations, short answer, multiple choice, true/false, essay questions, or a combination thereof.
- Each quiz will cover material from assigned readings, lecture notes, and in-class discussions. Each quiz will focus primarily on the subject area of the most recent module but will be cumulative with regards to empirical methods.
- During quizzes, students are forbidden to communicate with any person other than an examination proctor or the instructor. Students are forbidden from using any books, notes, study guides, diagrams, communication equipment such as a cell phone, computer programs or software, online resources or websites, or other aids unless authorized by the instructor; such authorization must be stated explicitly during the examination. Quizzes will be checked for plagiarism/copied answers across students.
- This course has three quizzes while only two of three will count towards your final grade. Due to the flexibility in this assessment, academic consideration through self-attestation will be denied.

Final Project (60%)

- Your final project will consist of a research proposal of 2,500-3,500 words (about 10-12 pages when double-spaced, in 12-point font, and using one-inch margins) and presentation of that proposal. The proposal will cover a topic of your choice related to development economics.
- Detailed instructions for this paper along with final and intermediate due dates (for essay topic approval) will be provided during the course. The final paper must be submitted electronically and will be checked by software for plagiarism.
- This is an essay-based course and so completion of the final project is a requirement for receiving a passing grade for the course.
- This assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration (self-attestation is not allowed for the Final Project).

Course Outline (Tentative):

1. Introduction [Sept. 9 & 11]
2. History, Geography, & Institutions
 - a. Land & Institutions [Sept. 16]
 - b. The Geography of Development [Sept. 18]
 - c. Colonial Legacies & Institutions [Sept. 23 & 25]
 - d. *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* [Sept. 30]
 - e. Quiz 1 [Oct. 2]
3. Education, Health, & Gender
 - a. Health [Oct. 7 & 9]
 - b. *Reading Week* [Oct. 14 & 16]

- c. Education [Oct. 21 & 23]
- d. Gender [Oct. 28]
- e. Quiz 2 [Oct. 30]
- 4. Conflict
 - a. Ethnic Conflict [Nov. 4]
 - b. Resources, Labor, & Conflict [Nov. 6 & 11]
 - c. External Intervention & Conflict [Nov. 13 & 18]
 - d. Quiz 3 [Nov. 20]
- 5. Final Paper Student Presentations [Nov. 25 & 27, Dec. 2 & 4]

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. A [*new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students **cannot** self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
4. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 4.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made

to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to **DROP/WITHDRAW** first term full or half course: **Mon, Dec 2, 2024**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**
- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor,

students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unity may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

To pass an essay course, students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage from someone else’s work and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university. Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to

¹From the UWO Academic Handbook. See

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbing.pdf

² From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

<http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. ***Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.***

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy "Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide" under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The "new view of unemployment" which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are "1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey" (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University's Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (Economic Literature) is an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department

that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html.

Essay Prize in Economics

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.

Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling, and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st

Winter courses: May 1st

The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.