

Syllabus – Winter Term | 12/29/25 - 01/16/26

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Economic Development

Credits: 3

Format: Online

Prerequisites: ECON 1200 or 1202; ECON 2201 or 2211Q. Recommended preparation: MATH 1071, 1110, 1121, 1131 or 1151.

Professor: Prof. Tianxu Chen

Email: tianxu.chen@uconn.edu (preferred method of contact)

Availability: I will be as responsive as possible. I will check my emails frequently. You can expect a response within 24 hours Monday - Friday. If you haven't heard from me within that time, please email me a reminder.

Course Materials

If possible, the course materials should be obtained before the first day of class.

Textbooks are available for purchase through the [UConn Bookstore](#) (or use the Purchase Textbooks tool in HuskyCT). Textbooks can be shipped ([fees apply](#)).

Required Textbook:

The course textbook is *Economic Development (12th ed.)* by Michael P. Todaro and Stephen Smith, published by Pearson. I selected this textbook because it provides a comprehensive overview of economic growth and development economics, including topics that we cannot cover in depth during the lectures. Please note that earlier editions of the textbook will also be acceptable.

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Helpful Websites:

- World Bank: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>
- World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/>

Course Description

This course explores the key theories and challenges of economic growth and development, focusing on the differences between wealthier and less developed countries. Students will engage with concepts related to poverty, inequality, and the role of markets and government policies. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to

critically analyze development issues and participate in policy debates surrounding global economic development.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and explain the key theories of economic growth and development, and how they apply to both developed and less developed countries.
2. Analyze the economic, social, and political factors contributing to differences in poverty, inequality, and human development across nations.
3. Critically evaluate the role of markets, governments, and international institutions in promoting or hindering economic development.
4. Assess the effectiveness of various policies aimed at addressing development challenges, such as poverty alleviation, inequality reduction, and sustainable growth.
5. Engage thoughtfully in policy debates on global development issues, utilizing economic theory and empirical evidence.

Course Outline

Modules	Dates
Course Orientation	12/29 - 12/30
Module 1 - Introducing Economic Development	12/31 - 1/2
Module 2 - Comparative Economic Development	1/3 - 1/5
Module 3 - Contemporary Models of Development and Underdevelopment	1/6 - 1/9
Module 4 - Poverty, Inequality, and Development	1/10 - 1/12
Module 5 - Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development	1/13 - 1/16

A detailed schedule of activities and due dates is available in the **Course Schedule**

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Weight
Discussions (5 total)	20%
Quizzes (5 total)	25%
Midterm	25%
Final	30%

Below is a summary of the course components.

Discussions

Students will participate in online discussions in every Module (Module 1-5). The discussions will include a first post answering the discussion prompt and then you will respond to 2 other classmate's posts. Your **First Post** is due early in the Modules and your **Response Posts** are due by the end of the Modules. I will post a summary outline of due dates and more information regarding the discussions in the Course Schedule and in HuskyCT.

Grading and feedback for the discussion will be provided based on a rubric (available in HuskyCT).

Quizzes

Every module will include a timely quiz of multiple-choice questions on HuskyCT (Module 1-5). For each quiz, you will be allowed to have **two attempts** (*the highest grade will be recorded*) and will receive immediate grading upon completing the quiz. These quizzes will test your mastery of the module's course content in a more "test like" condition. (See due dates posted in the Course Schedule within HuskyCT).

Midterm Exam

A timed midterm exam (75 minutes) will be given on HuskyCT following the completion of module three of the course. Grading and feedback for the exam will be provided (available in HuskyCT).

Final Exam

A timed final exam (90 minutes) will be given on HuskyCT following the completion of module five of the course. (See due dates posted in the Course Schedule within HuskyCT). The final will be comprehensive and include material from the entire course. Grading and feedback for the exam will be provided (available in HuskyCT).

- To verify student identification, **Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor** will be required for the Final Exam.
- Take the **Syllabus Quiz to practice** using the Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor.

Grading Scale

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the class. Deadlines are based on Eastern Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submission times accordingly. *The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

Late Policy: Since this is an online course, and each assessment is available in a window of several days with clearly stated due dates, there will be no make-ups of missed assessments except under very unusual circumstances. Being away and having no Internet access is not a valid reason.

- **Late homework assignments** are subject to a **10% late submission penalty if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline**. The solutions will be posted on HuskyCT one day after the deadline, and no submission will be accepted after that.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback within 24 hours Monday through Friday, and grades within 72 hours. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

To view your graded feedback in HuskyCT, please view this website: [My Grades](#)

Weekly Time Commitment

You should expect to dedicate approximately **42 hours** a week to this course. This expectation is based on the various course activities, assignments, and assessments and the University of Connecticut's policy regarding credit hours. More information related to hours per week per credit can be accessed at the [Online Student website](#).

Student Authentication and Verification

The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in, complete the course activities and assessments, and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include:

1. Secure access to the learning management system using your unique UConn NetID and password.
2. Use Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor for the Final Exam

Exam Proctoring

IMPORTANT: This course requires students to use the online service **Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor**. In order to use **Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor**, you must meet certain technical, software, location, and identity verification requirements. It is critical that you review these requirements and fully test the computer on which you will take your exam prior to the official start of classes and no later than the second day of the course. See the tab on the left-side menu in HuskyCT titled: **Online Proctoring for Final Exam**.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
 - Academic Integrity
 - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Credit Hours and Workload
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#)).

Software/Technical Requirements (with Accessibility and Privacy Information)

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard ([HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement](#), [HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) ([Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement](#), [Adobe Reader Privacy Policy](#))
- Google Apps ([Google Apps Accessibility](#), [Google for Education Privacy Policy](#))
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through uconn.onthehub.com) ([Microsoft Accessibility Statement](#), [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#))
- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).
- Webcam for using Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor for the Final Exam
- Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor ([Privacy Statement](#), [Accessibility Statement](#))

For information on managing your privacy at the University of Connecticut, visit the [University's Privacy page](#).

NOTE: This course has NOT been designed for use with mobile devices.

Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance. This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the [Help Center](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

- Webcam use.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.