

Mount Allison University

Department of Economics

Economics 3501- Economic Growth and Technological Change

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Office Hours: W 11:00 - 12:00

Lecture Location: DUNN Room 106
Lecture Days/Time: MW 13:30 - 14:50
Fall 2019

Course Description:

The main questions for this course are, why are some countries richer than others and what makes countries grow at different rates? The course is designed primarily for economics majors, but is also appropriate for international studies, business, history, or political science majors. This course provides both theoretical and empirical aspects of the complex issues surrounding economic growth. We will study the underlying determinants economic growth, including factor accumulation and technological progress. We also will explore the extent to which political and social institutions influence the process of economic development. A central feature of our discussion will be the role policy plays in affecting economic success or failure across countries.

Prerequisites/corequisites

Econ 1001 Principles of Microeconomics; Econ 1011 Principles of Macroeconomics; or permission of the Department

Required Textbook

Economic Growth, by David N Weil, Pearson, 3rd edition.

Book on reserve

Introduction to Economic Growth, Third Ed., by Charles I. Jones and Dietrich Vollrath, 2013, W.W. Norton.

Note: Additional readings may be assigned.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction and Overview (chapters 1&2)
2. Factor Accumulation
 - a. Physical Capital (chapter 3)
 - b. Population and economic Growth (chapters 4&5)
 - c. Human capital (chapter 6)
3. Productivity
 - a. Measuring Productivity (chapter 7)
 - b. The Role of Technology in Growth (chapter 8)
 - c. Explaining Technological Change (chapter 9)
 - d. Productivity, Technology, and Efficiency (chapter 10)
 - e. International Openness and Economic Growth (chapter 11)
4. Fundamentals Behind Economic Growth
 - a. Government Policies (chapter 12)
 - b. Income Inequality and Economic Development (chapter 13)

- c. The Role of Culture in Economic Development (chapter 14)
- d. Geography, Climate, and Natural Resources (chapters 15&16)
- 5. Lessons from the Past and Prospects for the Future (chapter 17)

Note: Some topics may be added or deleted depending on time constraints.

Course Requirements/Assessments:

Assignment (15%)	Wednesday, October 2 nd
In-class assessment (5%)	
Essay (10%)	Wednesday, November 27 th
Midterm Examination (30%)	Monday, October 21 st
Final Examination (40%)	December 5 th to 14 th

- The assignment will consist of various analytical questions intended to support and reinforce students' comprehension of the course material, and to provide an indication of the type of questions that will be on the exams. As such, students are encouraged to treat each assignment as a critical learning opportunity. While students are permitted to discuss the assignment material with classmates, each student must ensure that their submitted work is their own. Please see the statement on plagiarism below.
- I will post the assignment approximately two weeks in advance, and therefore only in rare cases where a student can document a compelling reason for a prolonged absence will he or she be excused from handing in an assignment. In such a rare case, the weight of the assignment will be transferred to the final exam.
- The in-class assessment will consist of short analytical questions that students solve and discuss in small groups in the class. Students will be asked to submit a short report on the results.
- The assignment must be submitted on the due date at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted, and will receive a mark of zero.
- The essay will be on a specific topic to be assigned in early October and should be about 4-5 double-space pages (excluding title, references pages, tables, and figures). The final draft of the paper will be due at the beginning of class on November 27 (the last day of classes).
- THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED MIDTERM EXAMS. Failure to write the midterm exam will result in a grade of zero without proper documentation. For those who have a medical emergency for missing an exam, they should notify the instructor on the same/following day, followed by presenting the original doctors note to the instructor within a week. The weight shifted to the final examination.
- Non-programmable calculators will be allowed during the writing of examinations.
- The final examination will be comprehensive, held during the December Examination Period scheduled by the University, and last 3 hours.
- Students must fulfill all of the preceding course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. No course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean. Application to write a deferred final examination must be made to the Registrar's Office.
- Students will have at least 20% of their course mark by the time of withdrawal, in compliance with regulation 10.9.1

Moodle This course will make use of the Moodle platform. I will post all materials for the course, including lecture slides and assignment on the Moodle course website. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <https://moodle.mta.ca/> . Please ensure that you are set up on the Moodle prior to the course start date.

Grade Determination

I use the following criteria according to Department of Economics when assigning letter grades:

A+	90 – 100	B	73.33 – 76.66	C-	60 – 63.32
A	85 – 89.99	B-	70 – 73.32	D+	56.67 – 59.99
A-	80 – 84.99	C+	66.67 – 69.99	D	53.33 – 56.67
B+	76.67 – 79.99	C	63.33 – 66.66	D-	50 – 53.32

50 = minimum for a pass

60 = minimum to use for a prerequisite

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., assignment, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within a week (7 days) of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 7 days. Students are required to send e-mail to the instructor with the subject "ECON 3501-REQUEST FOR REGRADING" explaining the reason(s) for requesting a reappraisal of their graded work. Note: Reappraisals that do not conform to this standard will not be considered.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. For further information on how to avoid plagiarism, please see [Academic integrity & misconduct](#).

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact [Meighen Centre](#). Students who think they may have a disability (e.g., medical, physical, learning, mental illness, injury/concussion) are encouraged to contact the Meighen Centre to arrange a consultation. The Meighen Centre is located on the 3rd floor of the Wallace McCain Student Centre and reception can be reached at (506) 364-2641.

Treatment of Course Materials

Student, teaching, assignment or professor materials created for this course (including but not limited to lecture slides, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, exams and solutions to assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).