

# Syllabus

**Course Information:**

ECON 3840 - Economic Growth  
CRN 21647

Time:

TR 3:30pm - 4:45pm

Room:

Atkinson Hall 106

**Professor:**

Dr. Alexandre Ribeiro Scarcioffolo

Office:

421 Atkinson Hall

Office Hours:

M 9:00am-11am & T TR 1pm-2:30pm and by appointment

Meeting room

<https://gcsu.webex.com/meet/alexandre.scarcioffolo> ( 120 827 2617)

Email:

[alexandre.scarcioffolo@gcsu.edu](mailto:alexandre.scarcioffolo@gcsu.edu)

Phone:

478-445-1804 (Office)

**Course Description:** Economic growth is a fascinating topic. The goal of this course is to shed light on why some countries are economically more successful than others, understating major growth models, data and growth studies

The course will primarily consist of lectures combined with group discussion. The emphasis of this course will be developing analytical skills, communication skills, and on the application of economic concepts to real-world situations.

**Prerequisite:** ECON 2105 & 2106, or ECON 2100.

**Readings:**

- David Weil. Economic Growth. 3rd Edition (**Required**)
- William Easterly; The Elusive Quest for Growth (**Required**)
- Various Journal Articles - Available on GAvuew

**General Course Policies and Expectations:**

- I do not generally take attendance; however, attending class is crucial to understanding the material and thus doing well in the course.
- To create an appropriate incentive structure, I do not post notes online or provide copies of my notes. You are responsible for getting notes from a classmate when absent.
- The exams will cover the in-class notes and assigned reading material.
- I will take attendance on presentation days, and you will lose points for being late or absent without a valid excuse.
- Reading the textbook and material before coming to class is **ESSENTIAL**.
- Please visit me during office hours if questions remain after reading the relevant chapter and attending the related lecture. **I am a resource for you!!!**

- Students should check the school email regularly as these will be the primary forms of mass communication with the class.

**Grading:** Grading in this course will consist of a mixture of exam, book review, article summary, and presentation. These assessments will result in a total of 1000 points possible in the course.

### Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Max. Points
Exam 1	300
Exam 2	300
Book Review	150
Paper summary	150
Presentation	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

### Grading Scale

Score	Letter Grade
900–1000	A
800–899	B
700–799	C
600–699	D
000–599	F

*Exams:* There are two exams in the course. Exams will be a combination of short writing and calculation questions. Questions may come from assigned readings even if it has not been explicitly covered during lecture. Likewise, questions may be from lecture material not found explicitly in the readings. Each exam will test you only on information prior to the exam in question (none of the exams are cumulative). Prior to each exam, I will post some review questions on GA View. You should work through these, actively study your notes (i.e. “looking over your notes” is not the same thing as studying them), and read all assigned readings.

### Exam Schedule

Exam	Date
Exam #1	Thursday 9/23/21
Exam #2	Thursday 11/18/21

### *Exam Policy:*

- There will generally not be make-up exams. Accommodations for university excused absences will be provided if I am notified prior to the exam and provided with the required documentation.
- You cannot use any electronic device during the exams. If a student is observed with cell phone, smart watch, or earphones out during an exam, he or she will automatically receive a zero on that exam.
- The use of calculator is allowed.

- Exams will take place in our regular classroom at the regular class time and will be closed book. Students must take exams with their section of the class
- Once you enter the classroom and receive an exam, you may not leave the classroom.
- Students **WILL NOT** have exams handed out after the first student hands in his/her exam.

*One-Page Summaries:* You are required to briefly summarize several articles across the semester. These summaries should be typed, double-spaced, well written, and a maximum of one page. The due dates for each summary are provided below and on the schedule. Copies of the articles are provided on GA View. You should upload your completed summaries to the appropriate folder in GA View by 11:59 PM on the due dates listed. No late summaries will be accepted.

1. Lee; Population - **due September 2**
2. Hanushek; Economic Growth in Developing Countries: The Role of Human Capital - **due September 16**
3. Diamond; Schumpeter's Creative Destruction: A Review of the Evidence – **due October 5**
4. Wirtz; Anti-dumping: The Free trade Antacid – **due October 21**
5. Heckelman and Powell; Corruption and the Institutional Environment for Growth – **due November 2**

*Book Review:* We will read and write a review on “The Elusive Quest for Growth” by William Easterly. Online copies of the book are available on the library. The book review activity is due on the last day of class. Book review examples and a rubric are posted to GA View. You should upload your completed book review to the appropriate folder in GA View by 11:59 PM on the due date. No late summaries will be accepted.

*Presentation:* In order to help you improve your research and oral communication skills, students will be required to present the economic conditions of a specific developing country. You will have 5-7 minutes to present to the class (using PowerPoint slides), with 2-4 minutes of questions from the audience. You will be graded on the quality of information presented, presentation slides, presentation quality, and the quality of answers to questions from the audience. You should upload your slides to the appropriate folder in GA View prior to your presentation. Presentation days will be assigned after everyone has a country. I will take attendance during presentations and dock your grade if you miss the presentations of other students without an excused absence. If you are late or absent on presentation days, you will lose points on your grade for each presentation you miss without a valid excuse. I will provide additional details later in the semester. You will have ample time to prepare. **All presentation slides should be uploaded to GA View before the November 30.**

I reserve the right to award, at my discretion, extra credit for class attendance, extra credit quizzes, and any other various and sundry academic events and activities throughout the course of the semester. These extra credit opportunities will be announced as appropriate.

**Contacting the Instructor and Email Etiquette:**

The best time to ask questions is in class! Outside of class, the best way to reach me is via email. I will respond to emails in a timely manner – in most cases within a few hours. However, be aware that you are unlikely to get responses outside of regular business hours.

Professional email communication is an important skill for career success. I will always send professional emails when communicating with the class or with individual students and I expect that you will do the same when contacting me. When sending me an email, please compose it in a professional manner (an example is shown below) using complete sentences. To avoid it being sent to my spam box, please also ensure that “ECON 3840” is in the subject line; in addition, I suggest sending from a GCSU email address. It is also very important that you provide your full name, as many of your email addresses do not tell me who you are.

*Subject: ECON 4505*

*Alex,*

*I am a student in your ECN4505 class and I would like to set up an appointment on Thursday, 1/10, to discuss the material covered in class last week. I am available from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*Thank you.*

*Jane Doe*

*COVID-19 Statement:* The health and safety of our community will always remain our top priority. Although not required, **we strongly encourage students to get a COVID19 vaccine**. Similarly, unvaccinated individuals are also strongly encouraged to continue wearing a mask or face covering in the classroom as well as at social gatherings. Vaccinated individuals may also want to consider wearing a mask or face covering while indoors. In an effort to assist students with getting vaccinated, [Student Health Services](#) will be offering on-going vaccination clinics on campus starting during our Weekend of Welcome. For more information, contact Student Health Services at 478-445-3142 or via [Email](#). Please consult the university's [website](#) for COVID related updates and resources.

*GC Keeps Learning:* To help students adapt to the changing learning environment, Georgia College has developed a website of resources, tips, virtual tools, and access to help. Included in this site are tutorials for GeorgiaVIEW, area access to Wi-Fi, academic support tools, and tips for online learning (<https://www.gcsu.edu/gckeepslearning>).

*Writing Center:* Aside from one-on-one meetings with teachers during office hours, the best way to improve your writing is to work with writing consultants at the Writing Center. Writing consultants will work with any student writer working on any project in any discipline. To learn more about Writing Center locations, hours, scheduling and services, please go to <https://www.gcsu.edu/writingcenter>.

*Academic Dishonesty:* The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of Georgia College & State University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the [Student Conduct Code](#). Any student who commits any act of academic dishonesty will automatically receive a grade of "F" in this course.

## Lauren's Promise

**I will listen and believe if someone is threatening you**

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on 2018 by a man that she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. **We must all take action to ensure that this never happens again.**

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking, please report it to the Title IX Coordinator by calling the Office of Legal Affairs at (478) 445-2037 during business hours. You can also call Georgia College Police at (478) 445-4400 (emergency assistance) to report a possible assault. Off-campus resources include the Crisis Line and Safe House of Central Georgia, their 24/7 hotline number is (478) 745-9292 and the Bright House at (478) 250-8566, their 24/7 crisis hotline number is (770) 477-2177. You can also contact Counseling Services during business hours at (478) 445-5331. For confidential reporting options, please visit this <https://www.gcsu.edu/titleix/filing-complaint>.

## Detailed Outline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Required Reading/Activities</b>
17-Aug	Syllabus + Intro	
19-Aug	Facts to be Explained/Framework for Analysis	Chapters 1 and 2
24-Aug	Framework for Analysis/Physical Capital	Chapters 2 and 3
26-Aug	Physical Capital	Chapter 3
31-Aug	Physical Capital	Chapter 3
2-Sep	Population and Economic Growth	Chapter 4; <b>Summary #1</b>
7-Sep	Population and Economic Growth/Population Trend	Chapters 4 and 5
9-Sep	Population Trend	Chapter 5
14-Sep	Human Capital	Chapter 6
16-Sep	Human Capital	Chapter 6; <b>Summary #2</b>
21-Sep	Review	Review
23-Sep	<b>EXAM #1</b>	<b>EXAM #1</b>
28-Sep	Measuring Productivity	Chapter 7
30-Sep	Measuring Productivity	Chapter 7
5-Oct	Role of Technology	Chapter 8; <b>Summary #3</b>
7-Oct	Role of Technology/ Edge Technology	Chapter 8 and 9
12-Oct	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>No Class</b>
14-Oct	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class; Country selection</b>
19-Oct	Edge Technology/ Efficiency	Chapters 9 and 10
21-Oct	Efficiency/Open Economy	Chapters 10 and 11; <b>Summary #4</b>
26-Oct	Open Economy	Chapter 11
28-Oct	Government	Chapter 12
2-Nov	Government/Income Inequality	Chapters 12 and 13; <b>Summary #5</b>
4-Nov	Income Inequality	Chapter 13
9-Nov	Culture	Chapter 14
11-Nov	Geography	Chapter 15
16-Nov	Review	Review
18-Nov	<b>EXAM #2</b>	<b>EXAM #2</b>
23-Nov	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
25-Nov	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>No Class</b>
29-Nov	<b>Upload presentation slides</b>	<b>Upload presentation slides</b>
30-Nov	Presentations	Presentations
2-Dec	Presentations	Presentations; <b>Book Review</b>