

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2026	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	ECON353		
Course Title	Development Economics		
Prerequisites	ECON101 Microeconomics		
Course Instructor	TRAN Thanh Trang	Year Available (Grade Level)	3
Subject Area	Global Business & Economics	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	This course introduces the core ideas, debates, and policy challenges of economic development. We focus on what development means, why some countries grow faster than others, and how poverty, inequality, labor markets, and institutions shape development outcomes. The course emphasizes conceptual understanding and real-world issues, rather than technical methods.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	N/A
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	N/A
Learning Goals	<p>This course helps students understand what economic development really means beyond just income and GDP. We explore why some countries grow faster than others, why poverty and inequality persist, and how labor markets, education, health, institutions, and government policies shape development outcomes.</p> <p>Through real-world examples and current global issues, students will learn how to think critically about development challenges and evaluate different policy solutions. The goal is to build strong analytical skills and a deeper understanding of the economic and social problems facing developing countries today.</p>

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
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iCLA Diploma Policy

- (DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge
- (DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world
- (DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams
- (DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Flipped Classroom/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	<p>Problem-Based Learning (PBL): Students will work in groups to analyze real-world development issues such as poverty, inequality, education, or health. They will apply economic concepts to discuss possible policy solutions.</p> <p>Flipped Classroom: Students review short readings or materials before class. Class time is used for discussion, questions, and applying concepts to examples.</p> <p>Group Work: Students will work together on small tasks or case discussions during class to practice applying development economics ideas.</p> <p>Class Discussion: Students are encouraged to share opinions and discuss different perspectives on development policies and global challenges.</p>				
Use of ICT	UNIPA will serve as a repository for course materials and resources.				
Contents of class preparation and review	- Preparation: 2 hours per week (reading the textbook/lectures materials, engaging in class exercises) - Review: 3 hours per week (summarizing lecture content, reviewing the textbook)	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	2 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	3 hours
Feedback Methods	Quizzes: 20% Mid-term exam: 25% Final exam: 35% Flipped classroom activities (Graded as group or individual work depending on class size. Based on preparation and participation in class activities): 20%				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Quizzes	20%	Short in-class quizzes to test key concepts.
Midterm exam	25%	Tests understanding of main ideas and applications.
Final exam	35%	Comprehensive exam covering all course topics.
Flipped classroom	20%	Based on preparation and active participation in class.

Required Textbook(s)	De Janvry, A., & Sadoulet, E. (2015). Development economics: Theory and practice. Routledge. Todaro, M. P., & Smith, S. C. (2009). Economic development. Pearson education.
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Other Reading Materials/URL	N/A
Plagiarism Policy	Maintaining academic integrity is essential for this class. You may use AI tools for brainstorming, refining drafts, and grammar checking, but must cite them explicitly (e.g., "AI-generated outline via ChatGPT, revised by student"). All work will be screened, and assessments will include randomized questions, real-world applications.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>Class Expectations: The following rules are set to support mutual understanding and help everyone achieve the best learning outcomes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Punctuality Being on time shows respect and responsibility. Arriving late disrupts the class and reflects a lack of commitment. 2. Engagement This is an interactive course, and your active participation is important and expected. Being engaged not only improves the discussion but also deepens your understanding of the material.

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	What is development Todaro: Ch. 1 de Janvry: Introduction: Ch. 1
Class 2	Measuring Development Beyond GDP Todaro: Ch. 1-2 de Janvry: Ch. 1
Class 3	Global Development Patterns Todaro: Ch. 2 de Janvry: Ch. 2
Class 4	History of Development Thinking Todaro: Ch. 3 de Janvry: Ch. 3
Class 5	Poverty: Concepts and Measurement Todaro: Ch. 5 de Janvry: Ch. 5
Class 6	Inequality and Development Todaro: Ch. 5 de Janvry: Ch. 6 Quiz 1: Cover class 1-6
Class 7	Vulnerability & Informality Todaro: Ch. 5 (policy sections) de Janvry: Ch. 5
Class 8	What Drives Growth? Todaro: Ch. 3-4 de Janvry: Ch. 8

Class 9	Structural Transformation Todaro: Ch. 4; Ch. 9 de Janvry: Ch. 8
Class 10	Urbanization and Migration Todaro: Ch. 7 de Janvry: Ch. 12
Class 11	Population and Demographic Transition Todaro: Ch. 6 de Janvry: Ch. 11
Class 12	Industrialization and Trade Strategies Todaro: Ch. 12 de Janvry: Ch. 7 Quizz 2: cover class 7-12
Class 13	Labor Markets in Developing Countries Todaro: Ch. 7 de Janvry: Ch. 12
Class 14	Externalities and Public Goods Todaro: Ch. 10 de Janvry: Ch. 15-16
Class 15	Midterm exam
Class 16	Education and Development Todaro: Ch. 8 de Janvry: Ch. 17
Class 17	Health, Nutrition, and Productivity Todaro: Ch. 8 de Janvry: Ch. 17
Class 18	Flipped Class: Gender and Development Todaro: Ch. 8 de Janvry: Ch. 10; Ch. 5
Class 19	Social Protection and Targeting Todaro: Ch. 11 de Janvry: Ch. 14 Quiz 3: class 16-19
Class 20	Flipped Class: Financial Inclusion and Microfinance Todaro: Ch. 15 de Janvry: Ch. 13
Class 21	Agriculture and Rural Development Todaro: Ch. 9 de Janvry: Ch. 18

Class 22	Flipped Class: Climate Change and Sustainability Todaro: Ch. 10 de Janvry: Ch. 15
Class 23	Institutions and Development Todaro: Ch. 11 de Janvry: Ch. 20
Class 24	Governance, Corruption, and the State Todaro: Ch. 11 de Janvry: Ch. 21 Quiz 4: class 20-24
Class 25	Trade, Globalization, and GVCs Todaro: Ch. 12 de Janvry: Ch. 7
Class 26	Foreign Aid and Development Debates Todaro: Ch. 14 de Janvry: Ch. 19
Class 27	Political Economy of Development Todaro: Ch. 11 de Janvry: Ch. 21
Class 28	The Future of Development
Class 29	Final review
Class 30	Final review