



Economic Development Course Descriptor

Course Title	Economic Development	Faculty	Economics
Course Code	NCHEC542	Course Leader	
Credit Points	15	Teaching Period	Hilary
FHEQ Level	Level 5	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory for Economics Minor students, optional for PPE Economics Pathway students		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

COURSE SUMMARY

Economic Development is a course aimed at enhancing a student's understanding of socio-economic outcomes in a global context, using concepts from both Development Studies and Economics.

The key aims of this course within the Economics Minor are to introduce students to key ideas and debates in the field of international development, to expose students to the realities of living and policymaking in challenging environments, and to the possibilities of using Economics to analyse these.

In studying this course, students gain a good understanding of both the practical and theoretical challenges of international development, as well as improve their skills in understanding the socio-economic conditions and constraints experienced by distant others. They should also develop their understanding of potential applications of Economics to issues in international development.

Finally, the course prepares students for writing for a serious audience: to consider and critique their sources, to identify potential biases, and learn about the different types of audiences for whom one might write about economic and social policy.

COURSE AIMS

- Introduce students to key debates within the field of economic development.
- Expose students to the challenges faced by people and organisations in developing countries in trying to improve standards of living, and enable students to analyse these within the context of economic theory and policy.

- Enable the development of professional communication skills in the field of Development.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1b appreciate the challenges, constraints and opportunities faced by those living in the developing world, as well as the causes of these conditions
- K2b understand the key theoretical and policy debates in international development, evaluate how these relate to their studies in Economics, and be able to form educated opinions on them

SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1b distinguish different types of sources in the Economic Development literature, and be able to appreciate the evolution of different views in the field
- S2b identify economic arguments even when they are not expressed in the language of Economics

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1b write concisely for a professional audience
- T2b display an understanding of the range of conditions encountered in different countries and regions, as well as the requisite skill and sensitivity to be able to communicate their views to relevant groups
- T3b tolerate ambiguity in decision-making, and be comfortable with finding solutions for situations (such as policymaking) where unique correct answers may not exist

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 15 x large-group hours
- 10 x seminar hours
- 1.5 x tutorial hours (individual or group tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 150.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- The written assessment should be a report that mimics early-career tasks in the area of economic development, and students should be told that this is the objective, to manage students' expectations of early career work in this field.
- The length of the written assessment is designed to enable students to practice writing briefly and concisely about complex issues.
- The presentation element enables students to practice presentation skills, and students should have some choice in an element of the topic (e.g. choosing a country to study).

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in two forms:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Presentation	20%	Yes	15 minutes	N/A
2	Written assessment	80%	Yes	N/A	1,000 words

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during seminars. Student's will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings and reports) and through generic internal examiners' reports, both of which are posted on the College's VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Core textbook: Todaro, M.P. and Smith, S.C. (2020) Economic Development, 13th edition. Pearson. The 11th edition (2012) and 12th edition (2015) in either e-book or hard copy are all acceptable ways of accessing the text.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Course Leader is encouraged to use sources that reflect the fast-moving world of Development scholarship, for example blogs such as the following:

“From Poverty to Power”: A blog by Duncan Green, strategic advisor for Oxfam UK. Many of the Development world’s most important people comment regularly on his blog:

<http://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/>

Global Development: Views from the Center. A blog belonging to US think tank Center for Global Development: <http://www.cgdev.org/global-development>

INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study the following topics:

- Poverty and vulnerability
- Colonialism and its legacy
- Economic growth and industrialisation
- Governance and institutional development
- Trade and aid
- Other topics can be included as per the lecturer’s specialisms: e.g. urbanisation, migration, sustainable development, demographics, debt and economic crises, etc.

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Approved by: Academic Board					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Location	Proposed next review date
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
Modifications (As per AQF4)					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Modification (including category number)		
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy'		

