



ECON 6032: Economics of Development I
(Semester I - 2020/2021)
Department of Economics
The University of the West Indies - Mona

Lecturer: Nken Moïse

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Office: McIntyre Complex E-208

Class: Tuesdays 1-4pm (virtual classes¹; use the Black Board Corporate (BBC) link in OurVLE to access virtual classroom).

Office Hours: TBD, and by Appointment

Prerequisite:

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the background necessary to function, with a significant degree of competence, within the field of development economics. To that end, the course will attempt to cover the major topical areas of the subject in order to give students the breadth of knowledge needed. Throughout this course it will be assumed that students have completed micro and macroeconomics courses at the intermediate (undergraduate) level or higher.

This course is an introduction to Development Economics and is concerned with how economists have sought to explain how the process of economic growth occurs, and how – or whether – that delivers improved well-being of people. The course includes theories of growth and their critiques from heterodox economic traditions. We explore the relationship between economic growth, poverty, inequality, sustainability and human development. Throughout the semester, we ask: Is equitable growth possible – where economic growth is robust and sustained, while expanding human choices and freedoms for all and not just a few, and where the most deprived are empowered? In seeking to answer this question, we examine the theoretical concepts, policy strategies, and empirical evidence from experience. The learning objectives of the course are for students to become familiar with the basic theories and concepts on economic growth and its consequences for distribution, poverty and human development.

Learning Outcomes:

It is anticipated that, by the end of this semester, students taking this course will be familiar with the best know theories in each of the thematic areas covered and will have obtained an

¹All lectures are recorded and/or pre-recorded.

appreciation of past research and recent evidence.

Modes of Delivery:

Online

Assessment:

	Weighting	Due dates
Term report	20%	Tuesday, December 1st
Mid-semester Examination	30%	TBD
Final Examination	50%	TBD

*Papers submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Resources: see lecture folders

Course Outline:

Lecture #	Topics/Information
1	Introduction
2	Industrialization and the big push
3	Limited attention and income distribution
4	Rural credit markets
5	Credit rationing in markets with imperfect information
6	Interlinkage, limited liability and strategic interaction
7	Screening by the company you keep: joint liability lending and the peer selection effect
8	Characteristics of rural land markets
9	Historical legacies: A model linking Africa's past to its current underdevelopment
10	The economics of child labor
11	The Identification and Measurement of Poverty
12	Child labour boycott

Journal Articles: TBA

Important Notes:

- This syllabus may be revised occasionally throughout the semester. That is, some topics may be added or deleted depending on the pace of the course. All changes to this syllabus will be announced in class and posted on the web.
- Each student is required to choose a paper from the papers list in the resource section above. A highly focused literature review is required for the class. You should not only adequately explain the motivation of the paper, but should explain how the results are derived, the suitability of the chosen methodology and the article's relevance and contribution to the related literature, and relate it to the material that we are covering in the class. Then, you should identify an existing literature (often around four or five highly related papers) and make sure you have a clear understanding of this literature. Finally, you must provide an idea for a paper that will 'fill-in' that gap. You do not need to work out a formal model but you should have a well-reasoned intuition and a good idea of how the model will work. (10 pages max.). Instructions for submission will be provided soon.