

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
HKU BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**ECON2262 Economic Development**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Gedeon Lim  
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Meeting time: TBA  
Office hour: TBA

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Pre-requisites: ECON1210 *Introductory Microeconomics* and ECON1220 *Introductory Macroeconomics*. For students of the BAsc (GHD) programme, the pre-requisite is GHAD1002 *Introductory Economics and Finance*. (Note: students with knowledge of econometrics or statistics will benefit more from this course).

Course Website: HKU Moodle

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces the leading theories in development economics and their empirical applications. Our aim is to understand why some countries remain underdeveloped and the extent to which policies can shape growth and development. After an overview of the classic models of economic growth, the course will discuss the importance of institutions, politics, factor accumulation and inequality, among others, in economic development. As a result of taking the course students are expected to understand both classic and frontier theories of economic development, and to be able to conduct preliminary research in an empirical fashion.

**FACULTY GOALS**

- Goal 1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline
- Goal 2: Application and integration of knowledge
- Goal 3: Inculcating professionalism
- Goal 4: Developing global outlook
- Goal 5: Mastering communication skills
- Goal 6: Cultivating leadership

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes	Aligned Faculty Goals
CLO1 Acquaintance of the main theories and topics of development economics	Goals 1, 2, 3 and 6
CLO2 Application of economic theory and empirical methods to examine various development issues	Goals 1, 2, 3 and 6
CLO3 Developing a global outlook in the perspective of comparative development	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6
CLO4 Communication and presentation skills	Goals 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

## COURSE TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Expected contact hour	Study Load (%)
T&L1. Lecture with class discussion	36	33%
T&L2. Pre-class reading and self-study	36	33%
T&L3. Assignments and presentation	25	23%
T&L4. Consultation	12	11%
Total	109	100%

Assessment Methods	Brief Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
A1. Class participation	Class attendance/discussion	10%	CLO1, 2, 3, and 4
A2. Assignments	Individual assignments	20%	CLO1, 2, and 3
A3. Term paper	Group work on a short essay	20%	CLO1, 2, 3, and 4
A4. Presentation	Group work; present your term paper in class	10%	CLO1, 2, 3, and 4
A5. Final examination	Closed-book exam	40%	CLO1, 2, and 3
	Total	100%	

## STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT

### Course Grade Descriptors

A+, A, A-	Excellent. Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis
B+, B, B-	Good. Strong evidence of the ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis
C+, C, C-	Pass. Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at low levels of learning such as describe and apply but not at high levels of learning such as evaluate and synthesis
D+, D	Poorly Pass. Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject
F	Fail. Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject

## **Assessment Rubrics for Each Assessment**

1. Class participation: 1) the attendance, and 2) the quality of discussions at class.
2. Assignments: 1) pertinence, clarity, and reasoning, 2) the depth of analysis, 3) originality/novelty of your own comments/critiques/extension (for review work), and 4) writing and layout.
3. Term paper: 1) the originality, pertinence, and clarity of the topic, 2) the clarity of framework and reasoning, 3) the suitability/reliability of data/materials and research methods, 4) the depth of analysis, and 5) writing and layout.
4. Presentation: all rubrics of the term paper apply to the presentation. In addition, the grading of presentation is based on 1) the performance in the lecture and Q&A, and 2) the quality/layout of the PPT.

## **COURSE CONTENT AND TENTATIVE TEACHING SCHEDULE**

- 1: Overview
- 2: Growth and Trade
- 3: Geography and Institutions
- 3: Political Economy: Leaders and Institutions
- 4: Factor Accumulation: Health and Education
- 5: Factor Accumulation: Land and Capital (Credit, savings and insurance)
- 6: Inequalities and (Mis-)Allocation: Family and Gender
- 7: Inequalities and (Mis-)Allocation: Conflict
- 8: Productivity: Firms, Labor Markets and Poverty Traps
- 9: Environment
- 10: Student presentations

**REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED READINGS & ONLINE MATERIALS** (e.g. journals, textbooks, website addresses etc.)

**TBA**