

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**  
Department of Economics

**COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Course: ECON 676 ~ Economic Development

Semester: Spring 2017

Time: Thursdays, 6:30PM – 9:15PM (with a 15-minute break between them)

Location: Susquehanna Hall 1111

**INSTRUCTOR**

Name: Dr. Nama Ouattara

E-mail: ouattara@umd.edu

Office hours: Morrill 1102C, Thursday, 5:00pm-6:30pm or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with an introduction to the economic analysis of problems and policies to improve economic development and poverty alleviation in developing countries. The broad topics include: theories of growth and development; poverty, inequality and growth; foreign investments and aid; and the development of human capital. Course readings will include textbook, policy pieces, and academic articles.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

ECON 641, ECON642, and must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in ECON644.

**TEXTBOOK**

Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, *Economic Development*, Addison-Wesley/Pearson, 12th Ed., May 2014.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand, evaluate and analyze economic data.
2. Understand and interpret statistical evidence from economic data.
3. Apply empirical evidence to assessing economic arguments.
4. Apply macroeconomic theories to policy discussions.
5. Apply microeconomic theories to policy discussions.
6. Communicate economic ideas to a broader audience.

**COURSE WEBSITE**

Copies of the course syllabus, your grades, and other relevant links and documents will be posted on the course's ELMS/Canvas website. You can access the site via [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu). You will need to use your University of Maryland "directory ID" and password.

## **EMAIL**

Email is the primary means of communication outside the classroom, and I will use it to inform you of important announcements. Students are responsible for updating their current email address via <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/apps/saddr/> AND for paying attention to messages I send to the class via ELMS. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding email, and returned email due to “mailbox full” or “user unknown” will not excuse a student from missing announcements or deadlines. I will do my best to respond to email within 36 hours.

## **GRADING**

- Midterm (25 %)

It will consist of 2 problem sets. These problem sets will be a mix of empirical, mathematical, and short response questions.

- Homework (10%)

I will assign 4 homeworks over the semester. These homeworks will be written pieces that will assess students' ability to apply knowledge of economic theory and interpretation of data to policy. They will require students to identify and consult sources not provided on the reading list for background information and data. They will be graded on the accuracy of responses to specific parts of each assignment, clarity and correctness of reasoning, and on the quality of writing and presentation. Students may discuss memo assignments with fellow students, but should not share drafts with each other. Each student must turn in his or her own memo. The homework will consist in analyzing concepts as well as applying economic development theories to policy discussion. Homework will be given 2 weeks before the due date.

- In class participation and online discussion (10%)

Students are encouraged to attend class and participate. I will evaluate students based on their participation in class discussions and in-class exercises. These may include occasional quizzes. I will also open an online discussion every week after class. I will begin one or more threads of the discussion with questions that follow from things that came up during class. The discussions will remain open for 24 hours. Students must post at least one – and no more than three – contribution(s) to an online discussion each week. I will check in once around mid-day, and once in the late afternoon/early evening to respond to what has been posted and to redirect the discussion as necessary. The online discussions will be graded according to a rubric that I will post on the course website.

- Presentation (25%)

This assignment involves the writing and presentation of a paper on the topic of your choice. A list of potential topics will be given 2 weeks after the beginning of class. The paper and presentation should apply theory and concepts from economic development to real world data. The purpose of the assignment is to promote thought and analysis on key issues in line with developing countries. Students will be required to make a 15 minutes' presentation. These papers must present empirical evidence, and engage substantively with economic theory and public

policy. They should be roughly 7,000 – 10,000 words. Students will submit an outline of their paper and presentation one week prior to the beginning of presentations. More details information, guidance, grading rubric as well as the schedule of presentation will be given 2 weeks after the beginning of semester.

- Final exam (30%)

It will consist of 3 problem sets. These problem sets will be a mix of empirical, mathematical, and short response questions.

### **FINAL COURSE GRADES**

Students' grades on each component of the course will be weighed according to the scale above to calculate their numerical course grade. I do not grade on a curve. The numerical course grades will be translated into letter grades as follows:

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| 93-100 | A  |
| 90-92  | A- |
| 80-89  | B+ |
| 70-79  | B  |
| 60-69  | B- |
| 50-59  | C+ |
| 40-49  | C  |
| 30-39  | C- |
| 20-29  | D+ |
| 10-19  | D  |
| 0-9    | F  |

I might give an A+ to a student or two at the very top of the class' grade distribution.

### **WORK LOAD**

Mastering the material covered in this course requires a significant amount of work outside of class. Students should expect to spend more time outside of class than in class – typically at least twice as much time.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards applicable to all undergraduate and graduate students, and you are responsible for upholding these standards as complete assignments and take exams in this course. Please make yourself aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information, see [www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu](http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu)

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility to one another or myself will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

The University of Maryland's policy on excused absences is posted here:

<http://www.president.umd.edu/administration/policies/section-v-student-affairs/v-100g>

Please note:

If you miss any class meetings for any reason, you are still responsible for all material covered during the meeting you missed. It is your responsibility – not the instructor's – to make sure you catch up on the missed material. Instructors routinely facilitate things by posting lecture notes, etc.

If you need to miss an exam or other graded course requirement because of illness, injury, or some other emergency: Follow doctor's orders and get documentation. Get in touch with the instructor as soon as you're able – preferably prior to missing the exam or deadline. Communicate with the instructor to make up the course requirement as soon as possible. You are entitled to recover before you make up the course requirement, but you are not entitled to extra days to study beyond the time the doctor's note says you're incapacitated. If you are incapacitated for more than a week or so beyond the end of the term, your grade in the course will be an "Incomplete". In such cases you must negotiate a plan with your instructor for completing the course requirements. Once you make up the course requirement the instructor will change your "I" to the appropriate letter grade.

## **SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS**

Information regarding official University closing and delays can be found on the campus website and the snow phone line: (301) 405-SNOW (405-7669). The program director will also announce cancellation information to the program as an announcement on the program's ELMS/Canvas site. This will generally be done by 1:00 p.m. on days when weather or other factors are an issue. If classes need to be cancelled during the semester, it may be necessary to move the final exam back a week so missed classes can be made up.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The University of Maryland does not discriminate based on differences in age, race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, class, political affiliation, and national origin. Reasonable accommodations will be made to students with documented disabilities. I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

The graduate school requires that students maintain a GPA of at least 3.0. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation by the graduate school. Students on academic probation must ask the program's director to petition the graduate school if they want to remain in the program. The petition must include a plan for getting the student's GPA up to at least 3.0. Students who do not live up to their plan can be forced to leave the

program without having earned the degree.

### **ACCESS TO MORRILL HALL AND MORRILL 1102**

Morrill Hall is locked every day from 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. Your university ID gives you swipe access to the back door of the building.

### **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND KEY DATES**

The exact schedule should be treated as tentative; its purpose is to provide an overview of the likely shape of the course as a whole. For example, we may spend additional time on early and more technical chapters, but catch up later. Schedule details will be confirmed as we proceed through the semester. I will announce changes to this schedule, if any, in “announcements” on ELMS. Additional reading will be given on a weekly basis. Covered are: Chapters 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-10-11-13 -14-15.

Week1 ~ Jan 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Introducing Economic Development: A Global Perspective

Week2 ~ Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Comparative Economic Development

- Topic for discussion: Conflict and development

Week3 ~ Feb 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Classic Theories of Growth and Development

- Topic for discussion: schools of thought in the context of South Korea and Argentina

Week4 ~ Feb 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Contemporary models of development and underdevelopment

- Topic for discussion-presentation: The Hausman-Rodrik-Velasco growth Diagnostic framework.

Week5 ~ Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Markets, Government, and Civil Society in Economic Development

- Topic for discussion-presentation: The role of civil society-NGOs

Week6 ~ Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Foreign Finance, Investment and aid

- Topic for discussion-presentation: the rise of microfinance, Aid effectiveness

Week7 ~ Mar 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Reducing poverty: Where are we? (First 60 minutes of the course)

~ **Midterm exam (March, 9<sup>th</sup>) \_ Covered lectures: Week 1-6 90 minutes**

Week8 ~ Mar 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Poverty, Inequality, and Development

- Topic for discussion-presentation:

**No class on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Spring Break)**

Week9 ~ Mar 30<sup>th</sup> Population growth and Development

- Topic for discussion-presentation: Child Labor in developing countries

Week10 ~ April 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Urbanization, Environment and development

- Topic for discussion-presentation: Informal sector and slums formation (Favelas/Brazil)

Week 11 ~ April 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development

- Topic for discussion-presentation: Conditional cash transfer and education

Week 12 ~ April 20<sup>th</sup> ~ The environment and Development

- Topic for discussion-presentation: What developing countries can do?

Week 13 ~ April 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Debt, Financial crises and stabilization policies

- Topic for discussion-presentation: Global financial crisis and the developing countries

Week 14 ~ May 4<sup>th</sup> ~ International trade and development

- Topic for discussion-presentation: South-south trade and economic integration

Week 15 ~ May 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Review section

Final Exam: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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Econ 676  
Economic Development

Dr. Nama OUATTARA  
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**STUDENT SURVEY**

Please return by email to [ouattara@econ.umd.edu](mailto:ouattara@econ.umd.edu) (Word, plain text or pdf files are OK)  
Please help me to learn your name by attaching a photo to your survey (or a link to one)

NAME

E-MAIL

PHONE WHERE A MESSAGE MAY BE LEFT

SCHOOL AND MAJOR/PROGRAM

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

PREVIOUS ECONOMICS CLASSES

STATISTICS AND ECONOMETRICS CLASSES IF ANY

PREVIOUS NON-ECON DEVELOPMENT-RELATED COURSES

DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERIENCE IF ANY

WHAT ARE YOUR REASON(S) FOR TAKING THIS COURSE?

ANY SPECIAL COUNTRY OR TOPICAL INTERESTS

AS YOU BEGIN THIS COURSE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHAT ARE YOUR  
TWO BIGGEST QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT?

(OPTIONAL) IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, IN AN INTERNSHIP OR DEVELOPMENT  
ACTIVITY, PLEASE DESCRIBE

(OPTIONAL) PLEASE NOTE YOUR CURRENT CAREER INTERESTS