

Department of Economics
University of Toronto
ECO362H1S-LEC0101 – Economic Growth
Fall 2024

Instructor: Professor Diego Restuccia
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Lectures: M 2-4pm SS 1073 (Lectures Sep 9 and 16 will run 2-5pm, no lecture Sep 23)
Tutorials: M 4-5pm SS 1073 (First tutorial Sep 23, will run every week after that)

Overview:

The main objective of this course is to apply economic theory to understand and interpret empirical observations on economic development and growth. In this course, we will study the main facts characterizing economic development and growth over time and across countries, as well as the ability of theoretical models to account for these facts.

Course Materials:

There is no mandatory textbook for the course, notes, slides, and other relevant materials will be posted on Quercus as the course proceeds. Make sure to check the course page regularly for updated materials and announcements. For a general treatment of some of the topics covered in class I recommend Economic Growth by David Weil, Addison-Wesley, 2014 3rd edition; and Introduction to Economic Growth by Charles Jones and Dietrich Vollrath, Norton, 2013, 3rd edition.

Course Work and Grading:

The final grade will be determined as follows: Final exam (60%) and two term assignments (40%). Class participation is strongly encouraged and will count positively towards marginal adjustments to your final course grade. No other work will count towards your final grade. Sample problems will be distributed during the course and discussed in Tutorials.

E-mail Policy:

In my experience, e-mail is not the most effective means for discussing economics, office hours are more appropriate. I will endeavour to reply to e-mail within 24 hours, except on weekends. I will only respond to e-mails from utoronto accounts and that are clearly identified as ECO362 in the subject line. Do not use the Quercus Inbox.

Academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

Course Outline: (tentative and subject to change)

1. Facts on economic growth and development (slides; Weil Ch 1; Jones-Vollrath Ch 1)
2. The Solow growth model (notes/slides; Weil Ch 2 and 3; Jones-Vollrath Ch 2)
3. The role of human capital (slides; Weil Ch 6; Jones-Vollrath Ch 3)
4. Growth and development accounting (notes/slides; Weil Ch 7, Jones-Vollrath Ch 2)
5. The neoclassical growth model (notes/slides)
6. Historical perspectives on growth (notes/slides; Weil Ch 4)
7. Agriculture and structural transformation (notes/slides)
8. Misallocation and aggregate productivity (notes/slides; Weil Ch 10)
9. Poverty and inequality within and across countries (slides; Weil Ch 13)
10. Technological progress (slides; Weil Ch 8; Jones-Vollrath Ch 4 and 5)

Important dates (tentative):

- Sep 9 and 16, lectures 2-5pm.
- Sep 23, no lecture, first tutorial 4-5pm.
- Oct 14, Thanksgiving.
- Oct 28, Fall reading week.
- Nov 4 and 11, lectures 2-5pm.
- Nov 18, no lecture, tutorial 2-5pm.