Course Syllabus

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**Spring C 2025**

**January 6 - April 26**

**ECS3013: Introduction to Economic Development; Section RVC**

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| Professor's Information | | |
|  | **Instructor**: Dr. Irma Alonso  **E-Mail**: Please use only Canvas Inbox Course messages so that there is a record of your communication  **Office Hours:** All communications will take place online. | **Office of the Department of Economics:**DM 316 (MMC)  **Phone of the Department of Economics**: (305) 348 - 2317 or (305) 348-2316  **Fax of the Department of Economics**: (305) 348 - 1524 |

\*Please be aware I do not have an office on campus. Therefore, all communications will take place online.

**General Information Banner**

**Course Description and Purpose**

This course studies the structural and institutional determinants of economic development; economic analysis and policy formation. Some of the topics to be considered include theories of economic development, economic growth, income distribution, rural-urban migration, industry and agriculture, unemployment, education, economic reform, and the environment.

This course is offered fully online. The work to be performed during the semester has been divided into modules, each of which contains one or more activities. The due dates for each activity are specified in the relevant pages of the Content Modules. The work to be performed has been divided into activities lasting one week from Monday to Sunday.  Each activity will entail (1) studying each chapter; (2) taking a quiz per chapter, (3) taking three exams that cover the ten chapters, (4) submitting news reviews related to the topics under discussion, (5) submitting other assignments for each one of the chapters under consideration, and (6) working as a team to complete a Team Research Report. Strict deadlines are followed, and late work is not accepted. There is no penalty for submitting work ahead of time so if you want to be free during weekends and/or national holidays, you can submit your work ahead of time. If you cannot comply with the due dates, this course is not right for you.

This course serves as an elective in Economics, and it can be used as a free elective in other majors, as approved by the corresponding academic advisors.

**Course Objectives**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how economic development is a separate field within economics, devoted to studying the alleviation of poverty, the transformation of institutions, and the allocation of resources.
2. Define economic development as accomplishing the elimination of poverty, an improvement in the quality of life, and the fulfillment of the potential of individuals.
3. Identify how different life is in the developing world as compared to the developed world.
4. Analyze why some countries make rapid progress toward development while others remain poor.
5. Explain what the causes of extreme poverty are and what policies have been most effective in improving the lives of the poorest of the poor.

Important Information Banner

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

* + [Policies](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/pages/policies-2)
  + [NetiquetteLinks to an external site.](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)

**Course Prerequisites**

This course has a pre-requisite of Principles of Economics or the instructor’s approval. For more information about prerequisites, access the [course catalog pageLinks to an external site.](http://cas.fiu.edu/).

**Proctored Exam Policy**

This course will not require proctored exams.

This course will have a syllabus quiz and ten chapter quizzes, corresponding to chapters 1-10. The syllabus quiz will be available the first week of classes with two attempts and the highest of both will be kept. The chapter quizzes and the exams will have a time limit, with up to 2 attempts and the highest of both attempts will be kept. Students will be able to see their scores upon completion.

**FIU Career Resources:**

Visit Career and Talent Development for career planning, job search resources, resume review, interview preparation, and more at **career.fiu.edu**. Students and alumni can access resources and make appointments through FIU Handshake.

[**Login to HandshakeLinks to an external site.**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fiu.joinhandshake.com/login?ref=app-domain__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmCwbtWvp%24)

**Handshake**is the school’s official job/internship portal. Thousands of employers are hiring students on Handshake. Once you fill in your career interests, you’ll get personalized recommendations for jobs and events and direct outreach from employers interested in students like you—*80% of students with a complete Handshake profile get messaged by employers*!

* Activate your account at [https://fiu.joinhandshake.com/loginLinks to an external site.](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fiu.joinhandshake.com/login__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmMUXGeYf%24)
* Download the Handshake app from [AppleLinks to an external site.](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/apps.apple.com/app/apple-store/id1220620171?pt=96161867&ct=edu-stu-ig-giveaway&mt=8__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmPY0VJfn%24) or [Google PlayLinks to an external site.](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.joinhandshake.student&hl=en_US&utm_campaign=edu-stu-ig-giveaway&utm_medium=social&utm_source=insta__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmEapvfI6%24) to receive notifications on the latest jobs, events, and employers
* Learn more: [“5 Reasons You Need Handshake More Than Other Career Sites”Links to an external site.](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/joinhandshake.com/blog/students/5-reasons-you-need-handshake-more-than-other-career-sites/__;!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Nd86rRz51i9EwBhT73iCOxPeE0tibJA7W0jtzmBDNJDgzkL5vlEx0Y0CM4502Q-JGGFgS1_Ix2TZmNqjC1Uy%24)

**Students with Disabilities**

As a college, we care about students with special needs.  To receive these services it is required for the student to self-identify as a student with a disability and to present the required documentation.  For further information and to register at the Disability Resource Center, you can visit the DRC at the MMC in Graham Center, Room 190, or at the BBC in Wolfe University Center Room 131.  To make an appointment you have the following options: call MMC at 305-348-3532, or send an email to: [drcupgl@fiu.edu](mailto:drcupgl@fiu.edu); at the BBC you can call 305-919-5345  or send an email to [drcbbc@fiu.edu](mailto:drcbbc@fiu.edu)

**Textbook and Course Material**

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| --- | --- |
| Textbook and Course Materials Table | |
|  | **Economic Development (Chapters 1 - 10)**  Todaro, M.P. and S.C. Smith  Pearson, 13th Edition, 2020  Access Code ISBN: 9781323966372  You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU BookstoreLinks to an external site.](http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001).  The textbook is also available online from Vitalsource.com. The ISBN number of the E-book is: 9781292291192 |

FIU has implemented the Panther Book Pack rental program, which provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of $20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack. The Panther Book Pack program applies to all undergraduate credit hours per academic session. I recommend that you review the pricing for all materials across your classes this session compared to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. You may opt back into the Panther Book Pack up to three days after the add/drop deadline. If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged $20 per credit hour and the course materials will be reserved for you for the undergraduate courses for which you are registered. For more details, visit [**bookpack.fiu.edu**Links to an external site.](http://bookpack.fiu.edu/)”

**Useful Websites**

* [Countries and RegionsLinks to an external site.](http://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)
* [World Bank Development Data and StatisticsLinks to an external site.](http://www.worldbank.org/data/)
* [International Monetary FundLinks to an external site.](http://www.imf.org/)
* [IMF World Economic OutlookLinks to an external site.](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm)
* [United Nations Economic and Social DevelopmentLinks to an external site.](https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/)
* [United Nations Development ProgramLinks to an external site.](http://www.undp.org/)
* [Human Development ReportLinks to an external site.](http://hdr.undp.org/en/)

**Expectations of this Course**

This is a fully online course, meaning that all coursework (100%) will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in fully online courses are the same as for traditional courses; in fact, fully online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Fully online courses are not independent study courses. You will be expected to interact online with the professor and your fellow students; do assignments; meet deadlines; and in many classes, work in virtual groups.

It is very important that **online etiquette** is followed at all times. You should be aware of the common rules of netiquette and employ them at all times. In particular, follow the following rules: (1) do not use all CAPITAL LETTERS for a message, (2) always practice good grammar, (3) use spell check and proofread your messages before posting, and above all, (4) be respectful and considerate with your classmates.

**Students are expected to:**

* **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
* **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
* **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
* **interact** online with instructor and peers;
* **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines.

**The instructor will:**

* **respond** to discussion postings within 7 days of the deadline;
* **respond** to emails within 48 hours;
* **grade** assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline.

Course Detail Banner

**Course Communication**

Communication in this course will take place within Canvas. See the [Canvas GuideLinks to an external site.](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) on communicating with course users for more information.

* **E-mail:**Contact your instructor via Canvas Inbox messages. Use of FIU email should not be used as there is no record of it for course-related matters.
* **Discussion Forum:** It will be used for class discussions and other postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information.
* **Announcements:**Will be used to announce, if needed, last-minute changes to the schedule or as reminders of assignments that are due.

**Discussions**

The Discussions section will be used, as needed, for class discussions and other postings of general interest that are directly related to the course. Everyone can read Discussion Forum postings; therefore, do not post private information.

**Assignments**

The course will cover a total of 10 chapters from the textbook. There will be ten quizzes, three partial exams, reviews of news, additional assignments as indicated for some chapters, and the completion of a team research report with the corresponding peer reviews.

The topics to be covered in the exams are provided below.

**Part One: Principles and Concepts**

The objective of this part of the course is to emphasize the nature and meaning of development and underdevelopment and its various manifestation in developing nations. Classical and contemporary models of development and underdevelopment will be subject to analysis.

* Chapter 1: Introducing Economic Development: A Global Perspective
* Chapter 2: Comparative Economic Development
* Chapter 3: Classic Theories of Economic Growth and Development
* Chapter 4: Contemporary Models of Development and Underdevelopment

**Part Two: Problems and Policies: Domestic**

The main objective of this part of the course is to pay attention to major domestic development problems and policies. Issues like poverty, inequality, population growth, urbanization, education, and health problems, among others, will be considered.

* Chapter 5: Poverty, Inequality, and Development
* Chapter 6: Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies
* Chapter 7: Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration: Theory and Policy
* Chapter 8: Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development
* Chapter 9: Agricultural transformation and rural development
* Chapter 10: The environment and rural development

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirementsLinks to an external site.](https://fiuonline.fiu.edu/experience/what-is-required.php).  
  
Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support ServicesLinks to an external site.](https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/).

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| Chapter 1 Problem Set Rubric | | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | | **Pts** |
| Table with relevant data | **5 pts**  Complete and correct answers | **2.5 pts**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  Deficient and/or no submission | 5 Pts |
| Report interpreting the data | **5 pts**  Complete and correct answers | **2.5 pts**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  Deficient and/or no submission | 5 Pts |

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| Chapter 1 Video Analysis Rubric | | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | | **Pts** |
| Essay evaluating the video | **10 pts**  **Excellent**  A comprehensive evaluation of the video | **5 pts**  **Average**  Partial evaluation of the video | **0 pts**  **Needs Improvement**  Deficient and/or no submission | 10 Pts |

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| News Analysis Rubric | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | **Pts** |
| Reviews of news | **2 pts**  **Excellent - news related to topic discussed in each chapter** | **0 pts**  **Deficient and/or no submission** | 2 Pts |

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| Chapter 5 Data Set Rubric | | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | | **Pts** |
| Question 1:  Graph of the Lorenz Curve | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  Complete and Correct Answers | **1 pts**  **Average**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  **Deficient and/or no submission**  Deficient and/or no submission | 2 Pts |
| Question 2:  Explanation of how to find the Gini Coefficient, graphically | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  Complete and Correct Answers | **1 pts**  **Average**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  **Deficient and/or no submission**  Deficient and/or no submission | 2 Pts |
| Question 3:  Estimation of income of the bottom 20% and bottom 40% | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  Complete and Correct Answers | **1 pts**  **Average**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  **Deficient and/or no submission**  Deficient and/or no submission | 2 Pts |
| Question 4:  Estimation of level of poverty | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  Complete and Correct Answers | **1 pts**  **Average**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  **Deficient and/or no submission**  Deficient and/or no submission | 2 Pts |
| Question 5:  Effects of transfer of national income | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  Complete and Correct Answers | **1 pts**  **Average**  Partial Answers | **0 pts**  **Deficient and/or no submission**  Deficient and/or no submission | 2 Pts |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Discussion and/or Peer Review Rubric | | | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | | | **Pts** |
| Student response to prompt  The relevance of the reply to the question posted. | **5 pts**  **Excellent**  The answer is complete; enough detail is provided to support assertions; factually correct. | **4 pts**  **Average**  The answer is mostly complete; the answer focuses only on issues related to the question; few minor errors in content. | **1 pts**  **Needs Improvement**  The answer is brief with insufficient detail. Unrelated issues were introduced and/or multiple errors in content. | **0 pts**  **Deficient**  Not submitted on time. | 5 pts |
| Student response to peer | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  A timely and complete reply | | **0 pts**  **Deficient**  Not submitted on time or incomplete reply. | | 2 pts |
| Student response to peer | **2 pts**  **Excellent**  A timely and complete reply | | **0 pts**  **Deficient**  Not submitted on time or incomplete reply. | | 2 pts |

The Research Report Rubric  is included with the instructions for the report

The FIU Online Librarian, Sarah Hammill, has prepared for this course a Library Guide, which offers a bibliography for all the topics that could be covered for the Research Project.  The LibGuide is available at:  <https://library.fiu.edu/ECS3013>

**Grading**

| Grading Table | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Requirements** | **Number of Items** | **Points for Each** | **Total Points Available** |
| Introduction: introduce yourself and welcome others posting to the Discussion Board, as indicated as well as to your instructor | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Syllabus Quiz | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Quizzes 1-10 | 10 | 10 | 100 |
| Chapter 1 Video Report | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Chapter 1 Data Collection / Analysis | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Chapter 5 Data Set | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| Team Research Report, including the selection of topic, Group Agreement, Individual Progress Reports, and Peer reviews of the research reports | 7 | 10 for everything except the Final Report, which is 40 | 100 |
| Reviews of news | 10 news | 2 points each | 20 |
| Exams | 3 | 12 | 36 |
| **Total** | **35** | **N/A** | **300** |

| Letter Grade | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter** | **Points** | **Letter** | **Points** | **Letter** | **Points** |
| A | 300 - 284 | B | 259 - 248 | C | 229 - 209 |
| A- | 283 - 269 | B- | 247 - 239 | D | 208 - 179 |
| B+ | 268 - 260 | C+ | 238 - 230 | F | 178 - 0 |

Your grade will be based on your performance on the course requirements. Points are earned based on the values for each course requirement stated above.

Course Calendar Banner

A calendar with a blue square

Description automatically generated **Access your**[**Course Calendar**](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/pages/course-calendar-page)**for course topics and assignments**



Course Summary:

| **Date** | **Details** | **Due** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sun Jan 12, 2025 | Discussion Topic [Introduce Yourself to Your Classmates](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010579) | due by 11:59pm |
| Assignment [Introduce Yourself to Your Instructor](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010602) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Syllabus Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010578) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jan 19, 2025 | Assignment [Chapter 1 Data Set](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010592) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Chapter 1 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010589) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 1 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010577) | due by 11:59pm |
| Assignment [Chapter 1 Video Analysis](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010593) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Jan 26, 2025 | Discussion Topic [Chapter 2 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010588) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 2 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010575) | due by 11:59pm |
| Assignment [Team Research Report: Group Agreement](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010604) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Economic Development Topic Selection](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010590) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Feb 2, 2025 | Discussion Topic [Chapter 3 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010587) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 3 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010571) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Feb 9, 2025 | Discussion Topic [Chapter 4 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010586) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 4 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010576) | due by 11:59pm |
| Assignment [Individual Progress Report #1](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010599) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Feb 16, 2025 | Quiz [Exam 1](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010568) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Feb 23, 2025 | Assignment [Chapter 5 Data Set](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010594) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Chapter 5 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010585) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 5 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010567) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Mar 9, 2025 | Discussion Topic [Chapter 6 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010584) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 6 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010573) | due by 11:59pm |
| Assignment [Individual Progress Report #2](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010600) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Mar 16, 2025 | Quiz [Chapter 7 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010570) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Chapter 7 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010583) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Mar 23, 2025 | Quiz [Exam 2](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010574) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Mar 30, 2025 | Discussion Topic [Chapter 8 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010582) | due by 11:59pm |
| Quiz [Chapter 8 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010569) | due by 11:59pm |
| Assignment [Individual Progress Report #3](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010601) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Apr 6, 2025 | Quiz [Chapter 9 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010566) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Chapter 9 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010581) | due by 11:59pm |
| Thu Apr 10, 2025 | Quiz [Chapter 10 Quiz](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010565) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Chapter 10 News Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010580) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Apr 18, 2025 | Assignment [Team Research Report: Final Report](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010603) | due by 11:59pm |
| Sat Apr 19, 2025 | Quiz [Exam 3](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010572) | due by 11:59pm |
| Discussion Topic [Research Report Discussion: Peer Review](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010591) | due by 11:59pm |
|  | Assignment [Extra Credit](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010595) |  |
| Assignment [Extra Credit - Gateway Survey Submission](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010784) |  |
| Assignment [Extra Credit - SPOT Survery Submission](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010785) |  |
| Assignment [Final Grade](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215811/assignments/3010597) |  |