

**Development Economics I – Econ 7131-OS1**

<b>Class location and time:</b>	<b>Mon/Wed: 12:30-1:45pm, Clough UG Learning Commons   150</b>
<b>Professor:</b>	Dr. Olga Shemyakina
<b>Professor's Office hours:</b>	by appointment, TBA
<b>Office:</b>	Old CE 322
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:olga.shemyakina@econ.gatech.edu">olga.shemyakina@econ.gatech.edu</a>
<b>GTA:</b>	TBD
<b>GTA Email:</b>	TBA
<b>GTA Office hours:</b>	TBA

**Syllabus version: 04/10/2026**

**Course Description**

This course approaches development from the microeconomic perspective. The course provides partial surveys of leading economic issues faced by less developed countries and research methods used in development economics research. The focus is on the application of both economic theory and econometrics. The goal is to demonstrate how analytic techniques, used in applied microeconomics, can be used to answer questions and address issues related to developing economies and inform public policy in these countries. The emphasis of the course is on the interpretation and evaluation of empirical evidence relevant for the conduct of public policy in developing countries.

***Learning Objectives:***

The course intends to achieve the following learning objectives for students: 1) Gain knowledge on the leading issues in economic development and research methods; 2) Evaluate how economic and social policies affect incentives and impact development, 3) Review policy tools and evaluation methods; 4) Communicate research effectively, and 5) Develop and execute an independent research project: write a research paper proposal.

**Course outline:**

1. Economic development, an overview.
2. How do the poor live? – a comparative analysis
3. RCTs – the new hope for development?
4. The Psychology of poverty: Behavioral Economics
5. Human capital in economic development:
  - a. Health and nutrition;
  - b. Education
6. History and Institutions: comparative development
  - a. History and institutions, comparative development
  - b. Path Dependency
  - c. Inequality
7. Political Economy
  - Corruption and institutions
8. Causes and Consequences of Armed Conflict
9. Gender & Development

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<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Grade weight, %</b>
Attendance and participation	10
Final exam (date - GT calendar)	25
Presentations	20
Assignments	20
Research paper proposal	25

**Recommended texts:**

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. "Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty." 2012. PublicAffairs. ISBN-10: 1610390938. ISBN-13: 978-1610390934

Duflo, Esther, Rachel Glennerster, and Michael Kremer. (2006). "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit", *NBER Technical Working Paper #333*  
[<http://www.nber.org/papers/t0333>]

Kohler, Ulrich and Frauke Kreuter. "Data Analysis Using Stata." Stata Press; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

Ray, Debraj. *Development Economics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998. ISBN: 9780691017068.

Todaro, Michael and Stephen C. Smith. *Economics of Development*. 12<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson. 2015.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance and participation are essential to your success in this course. You are expected to attend class in person and actively engage in class. Not attending a scheduled class session in-person results in an absence.

There may be times when you cannot or should not attend class, such as if you are not feeling well, have an interview, or have family responsibilities. Therefore, this course allows a specified number of absences without penalty, regardless of reason. After that, penalties accrue. Exceptions are allowed for Institute-approved absences (for example, those documented by the Registrar) and situations such as hospitalization or family emergencies (documented by the Office of the Dean of Students).

Your instructor can communicate with you about how to access materials or make-up work you may have missed during your absence or suggest ways to participate in class asynchronously. Students may miss a total of *three* (3) classes over the course of the semester without penalty, which could be further extended which can be further extended if you send me a doctor or other official note. These should be delivered no later than 1 week after absence. Each additional absence after the allotted number deducts 2% from a student's final grade.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY/INTEGRITY STATEMENT:**

Students are expected to adhere strictly to the honor code. Copying, cheating and plagiarism (copying sections of a text and passing it as your own work) are *unacceptable*. Discussion of projects and homework is acceptable and even encouraged, but answers to the problems should be completed individually. If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the assignment in which you have engaged in academic misconduct and be referred to the Office of Student

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Integrity, as required by Georgia Tech policy. We strongly urge you to be familiar with these Georgia Tech sites:

- Honor Challenge — <https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>
- Office of Student Integrity — <http://www.osi.gatech.edu/index.php>

***ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES***

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

***STUDENT-FACULTY EXPECTATION AGREEMENT***

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.