**CUTTINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**School of Graduate and Professional Studies**

Semester/Course/Number: **Semester I, 2023/2024** ■ ECON 620

Course Title/Credits/Room: Development Economics ■ 3 Credits ■ A-404

Day/Time/Section: Wednesday/3:00 pm -6:00 pm/Section 01

Instructor: Rudolph Monsio Bropleh, Ph.D.

Office/Hours: A-101 (the Annex)/Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30

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**Cuttington University Honor Code:** *“As a member of the Cuttington University community of scholars, I will uphold the fundamental values of Academic Integrity - Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility.”*

**Catalog Description**: The Department of Economics seeks to bring economic studies on par with international schools, so that students requiring a doctorate degree will be familiar with economic theories and concepts at any international school abroad. The student will understand the microeconomic variables through analyses and impact on the Liberian economy and beyond.

**Course Description**: This course focuses on improving fiscal, economic, and social conditions in [developing countries](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/emergingmarketeconomy.asp). Considering factors such as health, education, working conditions, domestic and international policies, and market conditions, this course will focus on strategies, policies, and best practices that can improve living conditions in underdeveloped countries.

**Required Text:**

Ed Taylor & Travis Lybbert. *Essentials of Development Economics*, 3rd Edition. University of California Press, August 2020.

**Learning Competencies**: The students enrolled in ECON 620 will learn the following competencies: Get acquainted with various concepts of development and under development, identify the causes and challenges of poverty and underdevelopment, and examine the strategies to overcome poverty and underdevelopment.

**Learning Outcomes**: Following the completion of this course, the students will:

* Know the difference between growth and development;
* Understand the significance of agriculture in developing countries;
* Identify issues of poverty, population, and structural transformation;
* Distinguish international trade from foreign aid;
* Be knowledgeable of the essential tools and concepts of development economics;
* Understand what makes underdevelopment persist and what helps development succeed; and
* Articulate the priority of human development.

**Course Timeline of Lessons and Course Readings**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **SCHEDULE** | **LESSON** | **Required course materials**  |
| 9/13 | The Fundamentals | Assignment 1 |
| 9/20 | What is Economic Development? | Lesson 2 Notes & Assignment |
| 9/27 | Income and Poverty | Notes/Chs. 3 & 4 (Online Class-OLS or OLA) |
| 10/4 | TEST (Take-home; due 10/11) | Notes & Text |
| 10/11 | No Class-National Elections | N/A |
| 10/18 | Inequality/Human Development | Notes/Chapters 5 & 6 |
| **10/25** | **MIDTERM EXAM** | **To be provided** |
| **11/1** | **Research Project Assigned** | **Due Tuesday November 21** |
| 11/8 | Institutions and Growth | Notes/Chapters 7 & 8 |
| 11/15 | Agriculture and Finance | Notes/Chapters 9 & 12 |
| 11/22 | Structural Transformation | Chapter 10 |
| 11/29 | Information and the Markets | Chapter 11 |
| 12/6 | International Trade/Globalization | Chapter 13 |
| **12/13** | **FINAL EXAM** | **To be provided** |
| **TOPICS WE MIGHT COVER IN THIS COURSE (in no particular order).**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Foundation of Development Economics | 7. Institutions |
| 2. Income | 8. Agriculture |
| 3. Poverty | 9. Structural Transformation |
| 4. Inequality | 10. Information and Markets |
| 5. Human Development | 11. Finance |
| 6. Growth | 12. International Trade and Globalization |

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**Class Attendance, Tardiness, and Absences**

You **must** attend your classes regularly and meet the requirements for each class. Excused absences include: Cuttington University activities, illnesses (physician-verified), and family emergencies. Tests and Exams that are missed due to an excused absence will be made up within a week after the due date.

**A student must be present to earn attendance/participation points.**

**Academic Integrity**: Cheating in all its forms, including plagiarism and cheating on visual work, is considered an academic matter to be controlled and acted upon by the instructor of this course. Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cuttington University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the Cuttington University Student Handbook. Cheating in any form (including using unauthorized materials and submitting someone else’s work as your own) will result in an “F” in the course and referral for disciplinary action.

**Accessibility Services:** Cuttington University’s School of Graduate and Professional Studies strives to make learning experiences accessible to all students and will provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you experience difficulties, based on the impact of a disability, please contact the office of the Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs to explore how we might assist you.

**Additional Information for a Successful Semester**

1. Most of life’s learning occurs when we interact with others. Being present in the classroom (seated or virtual) is a big part of learning and succeeding in this course. If you are constantly absent you will be unsuccessful in this course. If you are always present your chances of success are very good.
2. Take responsibility for your success. When you are absent, check with a classmate for missed work. If you miss a quiz, test, or exam, it is your responsibility to arrange for make-up.
3. An important part of learning is the free exchange of information and ideas, and the sharing of individual experiences—common and diverse. We will be respectful of each person, their right to participate, and the views they share. Class disruption and disrespect of anyone will not be tolerated.

**MIDTERM EXAM Wednesday, October 25**

**Holiday (Tubman Birthday) Wednesday, November 29**

**Last Day of Classes Wednesday, December 6**

**FINAL EXAM Wednesday, December 13**

# Course Requirements

## Test 100 points

## Midterm 100 points

## Research Project 100 points

## Final Exam 100 points

## Quizzes/Assignments: 100 points

## Attendance & participation: 200 points

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 700 points**

## Evaluation Method

**A = 630-700 points**

**B = 560-629 points**

**C = 490-559 points**

**D = 420-489 points**

**F = 000-419 points**

Aptitude + Attitude = Altitude

***What you know + how you behave = how high you go or how far you get.***

**—Dr. Rudolph Monsio Bropleh**

**This syllabus and course requirements may be altered at any time at the discretion of the instructor.**