

Econ 6653: Development Economics II (PhD Level)

General Course Information

Class Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00-1:15pm, 338 Cate Center One

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Joan Hamory

Email: jhamory@ou.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm, 439 Cate Center One or via Zoom

This syllabus is a contract between you and me.
By taking this course, you agree to abide by the policies listed within.

Course Description:

This course is the first in the two-part PhD Development Economics sequence. Development Economics is a very broad field. In some sense, it encompasses all fields of economics, applied to the setting of low-income economies. The PhD Development Economics sequence provides an overview of the main areas of thinking, controversies, and research, with the aim of equipping students with the resources necessary to produce interesting and important research in the field. This process involves (a) becoming familiar with the background and current frontier of research, as well as (b) becoming familiar with the methodological tools necessary to draw useful and credible inferences about the world.

The second course in this two-part series had a more macro-economic focus, covering topics such as the evolution of development thinking, the economics of growth and structural change, the role of industrial policy, open economy macroeconomics, globalization in trade and finance, and institutions and development policies. This first course in the sequence will focus on more micro-oriented questions, studying the frontier of research in topics such as health, education, social safety nets, corruption, and conflict. We will primarily study papers examining low- and middle-income countries, though some studies draw lessons from the historical process of development in modern day rich economies. We will emphasize the production of credible, rigorous analysis to answer research questions of interest. This is a graduate, seminar style course; class meetings will thus be primarily discussion-based, with some discussions led by the professor and others led by a student. Assignments will focus on the advancement of analytical, critical thinking, research development, and writing skills.

Prerequisites:

This course is designed for students in their second or third year of their PhD in Economics, who have completed their core exams and are beginning to focus on a narrower field of study.

Readings:

The readings for this course will be posted on Canvas. There is no required textbook.

Requirements and Grading:

1. *In-class Participation (19%)*

Because this is a discussion-style course, student participation is vital. Students will be expected to come to class already having carefully reviewed the paper(s) to be covered that day, and to participate actively in discussion of the material.

2. *In-class Presentations of the Material (19%)*

Each student will be assigned particular readings on which they will make a presentation and lead in-class discussion. The number of assignments per student will depend on total class enrollment, but students should expect to lead ~3 in-class discussions over the course of the semester. The instructor will provide guidelines on what should be prepared for these presentations, and how they will be evaluated.

3. *Problem Sets (19%)*

There will be two empirical problem sets assigned during the semester, which will require students to manipulate and analyze data using R, STATA or other related statistical software.

4. *Referee Reports (19%)*

Students will be asked to write two referee reports on papers written by individuals on the academic job market in Development Economics during 2022-2023 or 2023-2024. The instructor will provide guidelines on how these referee reports should be structured and what they should include.

5. *Research Proposal (19%)*

Students will be asked to develop a research proposal over the course of the semester. This should include a well-defined research question, a literature review, and a detailed research plan (including a proposed identification strategy and data source(s)). The proposal should not exceed 10 pages double spaced. It must be a new project (not your proposal for another class) and it must focus on a developing country context. Deadlines for topic approval, an outline of the proposal, and the full proposal, will be announced by the instructor.

6. *Attendance at the OU Economics Department Research Seminar (5%)*

Students should attend the OU Economics Seminar series (Fridays 3-4:15pm) when possible, and especially for talks related to applied fields. These seminars are crucial to your PhD training, providing exposure to cutting edge research across a range of fields, improving understanding of economic theory and econometric techniques, and building presentation skills. Students who attend at least 6 seminars over the course of the semester will receive full points for this portion of their grade.

University Policies:

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, and academic honesty. For further clarification please see: <http://integrity.ou.edu>. In particular for this course, in order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment/exam. In addition, *I will report* incidences of cheating to the Office of Academic Integrity, which may in turn administer additional punishment.

Religious Observance: It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

Reasonable Accommodation: The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center is committed to supporting students with disabilities to ensure that they are able to enjoy equal access to all components of their

education. This includes your academics, housing, and community events. If you are experiencing a disability, a mental/medical health condition that has a significant impact on one or more life functions, you can receive accommodations to provide equal access. Possible disabilities include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, AD(H)D, mental health, and chronic health. Additionally, we support students with temporary medical conditions (broken wrist, shoulder surgery, etc.) and pregnancy. To discuss potential accommodations, please contact the ADRC at 730 College Avenue, (ph.) 405.325.3852, or adrc@ou.edu.

Mental Health Support Services: If you are experiencing any mental health issues that are impacting your academic performance, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (UCC). The Center is located on the second floor of the Goddard Health Center, at 620 Elm Rm. 201, Norman, OK 73019. To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911. For more information, please visit [University Counseling Center](#).

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues: Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see the Institutional Equity Office [FAQ on Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement: Anyone who has been impacted by gender-based violence, including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and sexual assault, deserves access to resources so that they are supported personally and academically. The University of Oklahoma is committed to offering resources to those impacted, including: speaking with someone confidentially about your options, medical attention, counseling, reporting, academic support, and safety plans. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact [OU Advocates](#) (available 24/7 at 405-615-0013) or another confidential resource (see "[Can I make an anonymous report?](#)"). You may also choose to report gender-based violence and discrimination through other means, including by contacting the [Institutional Equity Office](#) (ieo@ou.edu, 405-325-3546) or police (911). Because the University of Oklahoma is committed to the safety of you and other students, I, as well as other faculty, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Assistants, are mandatory reporters. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This includes disclosures that occur in: class discussion, writing assignments, discussion boards, emails and during Student Hours. For more information, please visit the [Institutional Equity Office](#).

Final Exam Preparation Period: Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's [Final Exam Preparation Period policy](#).

Emergency Protocols: During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

Severe Weather: If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather.

1. Look for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances.
2. Seek refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building.
3. Go to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows.
4. Get in, Get Down, Cover Up.
5. Wait for official notice to resume normal activities.

Additional [Weather Safety Information](#) is available through the Department of Campus Safety.

Armed Subject/Campus Intruder: If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an active shooter or armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

1. Avoid: If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911.

2. Deny: If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room.
3. Defend: As a last resort fight to defend yourself.

For more information, visit [OU's Emergency Preparedness site](#).

[Shots Fired on Campus Procedure – Video](#)

Fire Alarm/General Emergency: If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates:

1. LEAVE the building. Do not use the elevators.
2. KNOW at least two building exits
3. ASSIST those that may need help
4. PROCEED to the emergency assembly area
5. ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues.
6. WAIT for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.

[OU Fire Safety on Campus](#)