**Kuwait University**

**College of Business Administration**

**Master of Science in Economics Program**

Course Syllabus

**Spring 2025**

1030525 – Development Economics

# Class Time and Location

**Lecture:** Mondays, 5:00 PM – 7:50 PM

**Room:** D2 - 1007

# Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Reyadh Faras

**Office**:Economics Department; 3rd Floor, Zone A, Office Number 1030

**Email**: reyadh.faras@ku.edu.kw

**Office Hours**: Mondays; 4:30 – 5:00 PM

# Course Description

The determinants and consequences of economic development, starting with a macroeconomic view of growth, structural change, and technological progress. It is followed by microeconomic aspects of development, covering topics such as poverty, savings and income distribution, firms and labor, human capital equilibrium traps, economic inequality, urbanization, informality, institutions, political economy, culture and beliefs formation, women and social norms, socioeconomic mobility, and public and experimental economics. Issues related to Kuwait and the MENA region are highlighted. Reading and discussing case studies, economic reports, policy papers, and empirical journal articles.

# Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply tools of economic theory to the analysis of economic growth and development.
2. Define standard measures of development, analyze the relationships between them, and explain their merits and limitations.
3. Explore and analyze the micro-founded determinants and implications of economic development.
4. Develop a general knowledge of the characteristics and issues related to economic development in Kuwait and the MENA region.
5. Survey and discuss the main and latest empirical literature related to development economics.
6. Write and present research (e.g., research proposal, literature review, term paper, replication, etc.).

# CLO Mapping to Master Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)[[1]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CLO | Competency Goal | | | | |
| Economic Theory | Quantitative Reasoning | Critical Thinking | Contextual Knowledge | Communication Skills |
| 1 | A | A | R |  |  |
| 2 |  | A | R |  |  |
| 3 | A | A | R |  |  |
| 4 |  |  | A | A |  |
| 5 |  | A | A |  |  |
| 6 |  | A | A |  | A |

# Type of Emphases:

* **(I)ntroduce:** Students will be introduced to the skill and their grasp of it assessed in the course.
* **(A)pply:** The course will not cover the skill. Students should have a high-level grasp of the skill & are required to apply it in the course.
* **(R)einforce:** Students should have an introductory-level grasp of the skill and the course will improve their mastery to a higher level.

# Pre-Requisites and/or Co-Requisites

Pre-Requisite: 1030531; 1030541.

# Required Material

**Textbook**: *Economic Development*, M. P. Todaro & S. C. Smith, 12th edition (2020) or later, Pearson.

**Additional Material**: Lecture notes provided by the instructor.

**E-Learning System**: MS Teams

**Course Website**: <https://moodle.ku.edu.kw>

# Course Requirements

* **Participation and attendance:** students are expected to attend every class and participate actively.
* **Reading assignments:** read, summarize, discuss, and/or present journal articles and/or policy papers.
* **Midterm exam(s):** one midterm exam covering material indicated by the instructor.
* **Research project:** students will develop an empirical policy paper on a development topic, in coordination with the instructor.
* **Other requirements:** present the results of the policy paper at the end of the semester.

# Course Policies

* **Communication:** all class communication will be via MS Teams.
* **Late assignment submission:** assignments should be submitted on time. Late submissions are not accepted.
* **Class etiquette**: Refrain from using phones or taking pictures of the board.
* **Academic honesty**: submitted assignment must represent the student’s own independent work. Violations of academic honesty are subject to the rules and regulations regarding cheating and plagiarism referenced below.
* **Research Resources:** use the KU library website to access the literature (<https://eresources.ku.edu.kw>). Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>) is also a great resource. If you cannot find or access an item, let me know.
* **Attendance and Participation:** students must abide by the KU-CGS by-laws regarding attendance (<https://cgs.ku.edu.kw/cgs-by-laws/>, Article 20).
* **Cheating and Plagiarism:** Every student in this course must abide by the KU-CGS by-laws regarding cheating and plagiarism ((<https://cgs.ku.edu.kw/cgs-by-laws/>, Article 20). Please carefully note all sources and assistance when you turn in your work. Under no circumstances should you take credit for work that is not yours. You should neither receive nor give any unauthorized assistance on any deliverable. If you have any questions about what constitutes “unauthorized assistance” please email me before the deliverable is submitted.
* **Disability:** inform the instructor if you have a disability and need assistance or accommodation.
* **CGS Rules:** you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the College of Graduate Studies rules: <https://cgs.ku.edu.kw/cgs-by-laws/>

# Grading

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Requirement | % |
| Participation & attendance | 5 |
| Reading assignments | 15 |
| Midterm exam | 30 |
| Research project | 30 |
| Project Presentation | 10 |
| Quizzes | 10 |
| Total | 100 |

# Course Outline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Topics | Readings | Weeks |
| **Preliminaries**   * Introduction, motivation, and stylized facts * Review of relevant mathematics, economic theory, and empirical methods | Ch 1 | 1 |
| **Part I: Theory and Fundamentals**   * Definition, goals, and measurement of development indicators * Macroeconomic models of growth, structural change, technological progress, and development * Micro-foundations of growth and development: consumption, saving, income distribution, etc. | Ch2 2, 3, 4 | 2-4 |
| **Part II: Outcomes, Extensions, Applications, and Policy**   * Poverty, inequality, socioeconomic mobility, sustainability, quality of life, and the environment * Human capital: labor, education, health, nutrition, and women * Society: culture, beliefs, social norms, social capital, and conflict * Political, fiscal, and legal institutions, political economy, democracy, governance, corruption, property rights, informality, and civil society * International trade, development organizations, and foreign aid * Empirical methods in development: experiments and causal inference | Ch 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15 | 5-11 |
| **Part III: Kuwait and MENA Context**   * Development issues and policies relevant to Kuwait and the MENA region * The role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and other regional development organizations * Kuwait as both a donor to and beneficiary from international development organizations | MENA Economic Update,  KWT vision, Development Plan | 12-14 |

**Important Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** |
| 7/4/2025 | Midterm Exam (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8) |
| 15/5/2025 | Last day of classes |
| 8/5/2025 | Project Submission |
| 12/5/2025 | Presentations |

**The instructor reserves the right to adjust the exam date if necessary, in coordination with students.**

**Master of Science in Economics Program Student Learning Outcomes**

1. **Economic Theory:** Develop a solid grounding in economic theory and apply it to complex economic problems, business decisions, and policy questions.
   1. Construct microeconomic and macroeconomic theoretical models to explain behavioral and economic phenomena and analyze the functioning of markets, institutions, and economies.
   2. Apply theoretical models to derive equilibrium solutions, perform comparative statics analysis, and generate predictions from policy simulations.
2. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Master advanced mathematical and statistical methods to construct economic models, specify and estimate appropriate econometric models, draw credible causal inferences, and produce reliable predictions and forecasts.
   1. Specify appropriate econometric models and statistical techniques to estimate behavioral and economic relationships and forecast macroeconomic variables.
   2. Develop credible identification strategies to estimate causal effects in microeconomic applications.
   3. Characterize empirical strategies employed in the literature and assess their validity.
3. **Critical Thinking:** analyze complex economic models, evaluate their assumptions critically, test their predictions and policy prescriptions, and distinguish between causal relationships and spurious correlations.
   1. Analyze theoretical economic models and evaluate their assumptions and predictions.
   2. Assess economic arguments against their theoretical underpinnings and the empirical evidence.
   3. Question and formulate the economic rationale of policy interventions and their consequences.
   4. Assess the credibility of econometric methodologies for identifying causal relationships separate spurious correlations.
4. **Contextual Knowledge:** attain a comprehensive knowledge of the history and issues related to the economies of Kuwait, the Arabian Gulf, and the Middle East and North Africa Region.
   1. Develop a working knowledge of the history and issues related to the local and regional economies.
   2. Characterize local and regional socioeconomic issues, phenomena, and policies within sound theoretical and empirical frameworks.
5. **Communication Skills:** write clear, rigorous, and coherent high-level research papers and communicate their methodologies and findings effectively and persuasively through presentations.
   1. Produce high-quality research papers written clearly, rigorously, and coherently.
   2. Interpret and communicate methodological techniques and quantitative results effectively.
   3. Deliver coherent and effective research and practical presentations.

1. Master Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) can be found at the end of this document [↑](#footnote-ref-2)