

Syllabus – May Term, 2020

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Econ. 3479 – Economic Growth

Credits: 3

Format: online

Prerequisites: Econ. 2202 – Intermediate Macroeconomics

Professor: Francis Ahking

Email: francis.ahking@uconn.edu

Telephone: (860) 486-3026

Other: (If applicable)

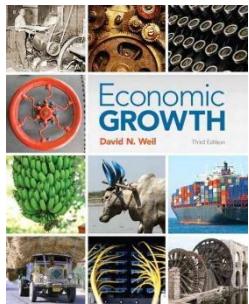
Office Hours/Availability: I will respond to your email no later than the next business day, usually within 24 hours.

Course Materials

Required course materials should be obtained before the first day of class.

Texts are available through a local or online bookstore. The [UConn Bookstore](#) carries the required texts and materials, and they may be shipped via its [online service](#) (for a fee). For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our [Enrolled Students](#) page.

Required Materials:



The required text for this course is Economic Growth, 3/e, by David N. Weil, published by Routledge (previously published by Pearson/Addison Wesley). You can purchase a new copy from Routledge, or you can purchase a used copy from [Amazon.com](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), or other online sellers. There is also a paperback edition of this textbook available from many other online sellers. It is an international edition of the book, and it is not identical to the U.S. edition. The contents are identical, but some exercises and examples in the international edition are different from the U.S. edition. I know many students who have used the international edition without any problem, however. There are many other websites on the internet that sell used/new textbooks or rent them. You are encouraged to check them out on your own. If you check on the internet, you'll be able to find inexpensive used copies of this book. The choice is yours.

Additional learning resources available on HuskyCT:

Supplementary lecture notes to each chapter

I have written these supplementary notes and they are roughly equivalent to the in-person lectures I would deliver in class if you attend this class in person. As expected, these notes are focused on selected topics. Topics that you could read on your own are usually not included.

PowerPoint lecture notes to each chapter

Since the publisher did not provide any PowerPoint slides, I have written these slides and they are free for you to use.

Course Description

Course Description (from Course Catalog):

Causes and consequences of economic growth examined through theory, data, and economic history. Interactions between economic growth and population growth, technology, education, health and life expectancy, and social institutions. Public policies to promote growth.

Additional faculty description:

In 2009, the richest country in the world had GDP per capita of about \$159,469 and the world average GDP per capita was \$9,909. The U.S. had GDP per capita of \$41,099. Put differently, the GDP per capita of the richest country in 2009 was 16 times that of the average world GDP per capita. Moreover, 20% of the world's population lived in countries receiving 60% of the world income. In the same year, China had an average annual growth rate of 7.5% to 8.0% over the preceding 35 years, while for the same period, Liberia had an annual average growth rate of -4.0% to -4.5%. How can we explain the great disparity in GDP per capita among countries? How can we explain the great disparity in growth rates among countries? Providing explanations to these two questions are the central objectives of this course. Relating to these two central questions, we'll also examine what has become an increasingly important question recently, and that is the question of income distribution among countries. We'll find out that economic factors are important but fall short of providing a comprehensive picture of the economic growth process. In addition, government, culture, and geographic factors, including the availability of natural resources are also important. However, given the time constraint, we will not be able to cover the role of the government, and culture in the growth process. I encourage to explore these very interesting topics on your own, however.

We will cover 12 chapters and the conclusion chapter in the May Term. These 12 chapters cover the core chapters in economic growth. There are "box" articles throughout your textbook; I have incorporated some into my lecture notes. These are interesting additional information and applications of concepts from your textbook. **I encourage you to read as many of the "box" articles as possible.**

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

1. Explain how differences in factor accumulation can explain differences in income among countries
2. Explain how technological progress, economic efficiency, and openness to international trade are important determinants of economic growth
3. Describe the role of geographic factors, including the availability of natural resources, in determining economic growth

Course Outline and Calendar

This course is organized into twelve plus a conclusion chapters to be covered in three weeks, approximately 4 chapters per week. Chapters 1 – 4 look at the basic Solow growth model and its extension to include population growth. In the second week, we'll cover chapters 6 – 9 which examine how human capital and technological growth help to determine economic growth. In the last week, we'll cover chapters 10, 11, 13, and 15 and look at the contribution of economic efficiency, international trade, and geographic location to economic growth. Chapter 17 is the concluding chapter that I encourage you to read and draw your own conclusions. In addition to putting this course in perspective, this chapter also asks the final question of whether or not growth could bring us happiness.

For the first two weeks, each week will end with an exercise, due on Friday, and a quiz, due on Sunday. For the third and last week, the class will end with the final exam on Friday.

Please note all due dates are U.S. Eastern Standard Time

Week 1: May 11 – May 17	
Chapter coverage	Graded Assignments
Read: Chapters 1 – 4 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook • Supplementary lecture notes • Lecture PowerPoint Also read: Lecture PowerPoint on “Technical notes” and “Notes on Solow Model” available on HuskyCT	Homework 1: due Friday, 5/15 Quiz 1: due Sunday, 5/17 Homework will become available on Thursday at 12:01 am until Friday at 11:49 pm.

Week 2: May 18 – May 24	
Chapter coverage	Graded Assignments
Read: Chapters 6 – 9 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook • Supplementary lecture notes • Lecture PowerPoint Also read: “Notes to Chapter 6” and “Notes to Chapter 7” available on HuskyCT	Homework 2: due Friday, 5/22 Quiz 2: due Sunday, 5/24 Homework will become available on Thursday at 12:01 am until Friday at 11:49 pm.

Week 3: May 25 – May 29	
Chapter coverage	Graded Assignments
Read: Chapters 10 – 11, 13, 15 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook • Supplementary lecture notes • Lecture PowerPoint Also read: the conclusion chapter, Chapter 17 in your textbook	Final Exam: due Friday, 5/29

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Weight
Homework	20%
Quizzes	50%
Final examination	30%

Homework

The two weekly homeworks are assessments covering the materials in that week’s learning materials. Each homework will consist of 15 – 20 questions. Questions are mostly multiple choice questions but there will also be numerical questions where you have to solve for a solution. Homeworks are not time-constrained except for the due date. You will have 48 hours to complete each homework, which will become available on Thursday, 12:01 am, until Friday, 11:59 pm. You can start on a homework anytime but must be completed and submitted before the due date to receive credit. For example, suppose you start and complete half a homework one day and wish to come back the next day to finish. You save all your answers but do not submit the homework for grading. The next day, you continue with the homework, finish it and also make some corrections to the previous day’s answers. This time you submit the answers for grading. You’ll find information about the start and end dates of homeworks from the Course Outline/Calendar section above.

Quizzes

There will be 2 quizzes total. Each quiz is an assessment covering the learning materials of that week. Quizzes have the same format as homeworks, except quizzes are timed assessments. Currently, quizzes are scheduled to be completed on Sundays, but this can change if we can all agree to it. There will be two 1.5 hours time blocks available for you to choose to complete the quiz. You can choose the time slot that you prefer. The quiz will be available for 1.5 hours at your chosen time slot. We can get organized at the beginning of the May term.

Final Examination

Final examinations is a timed assessment and must be completed before the end of the May term which is Friday, 5/29. The format will be very similar to the quizzes. Although it is comprehensive, but more emphasizes will be on the latter chapters. Like the quizzes, you will be given a choice of two time slots of 120 minutes each. You have to complete the final exam during your chosen time slot. I will provide more information before the final exam.

A Word About Academic Integrity with Online Assessment

The University of Connecticut takes academic integrity very seriously. All graded assessments must represent your **own independent effort**. My rules are relatively simple. When you are doing the online assessments, you can use your textbook, my lecture notes, your own notes, scratch pad, and a calculator. However, you cannot communicate with any other person(s) with any means whatsoever, e.g., texting, video chat, talking, phone call, email, etc. Please check with me if you have questions. **The penalty for violating the Student Code will be an F for this course.**

Grading

Each quiz and the final exam will be curved to arrive at the final course grade.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA	Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
92-100	A	4.0	68-72	C+	2.3
88-91	A-	3.7	63-67	C	2.0
83-87	B+	3.3	58-62	C-	1.7
78-82	B	3.0	54-57	D+	1.3
73-77	B-	2.7	50-53	D	1.0
			46-49	D-	0.7
			<45	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course assessment due dates are either identified in the Course Outline/Calendar section above, or will be announced and make clear to everybody before the assignment date. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. *The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated as announcements, and a copy of each announcement will be sent as an email to the email address on record.*

This is an online course, and makeup of missed assignment is more difficult than an in-person course. There will be no make-up of missed assessment except under very unusual circumstance and verifiable. Missing the final exam will require permission from the Dean of Students for a makeup. Please note that being away and have no access to the internet is **not** a valid reason. Technical issues that prevent you from completing your assignments in a timely manner is also **not** a valid reason. Very frequently for homeworks, this can be avoided by starting early

on your assignments. If you encounter a technical issue, please do not contact me as I'm unable to help you and valuable time will be wasted. Contact the HuskyCT helpline immediately instead, which is available 24/7. In sum, it is entirely your responsibility to make sure that you submit all your assessments on time. Please remember that many commercial establishments in the U.S. have free wi-fi access available to their customers.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. The results of all online assessments, e.g., homeworks, quizzes, examination, will be available after the due dates. This includes the questions, your answer choices, the correct answers and where appropriate, explanations. Note that you must have submitted the assessment to receive the results of that assessment. For example, if, for whatever reason you did not submit Quiz 1, you will not receive the results of Quiz 1. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
 - Academic Integrity
 - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

Software/Technical Requirements (with Accessibility and Privacy Information)

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard ([HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement](#), [HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) ([Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement](#), [Adobe Reader Privacy Policy](#))
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through uconn.onthehub.com) ([Microsoft Accessibility Statement](#), [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#))
- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).

NOTE: This course has NOT been designed for use with mobile devices.

Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the [Help Center](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.