

McGill University
Department of Economics

PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE

ECON 734: Economic Development
Winter 2023

Instructor Contact Information:

Prof. Franque Grimard
Leacock Building, Room 417
Tel: 398-4717
email: franque.grimard@mcgill.ca
Office hours : By zoom on demand

Regular Classes:

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:05am to 11:25pm
Room: LEA 927

Barring another COVID-19 outbreak, I expect that the great majority of the regular classes will be on campus in Leacock 927. However, given the state of my health (recovering from cancer surgery) it may be that medical appointments will, in some occasions, get in the way of teaching. If so, I may then teach the conflicting sessions on line, via zoom live sessions and/or recordings using MyCourses as the main support.

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to examine how the basic tools of economic analysis can be used in studying the process of economic development. The field of economic development covers quite a wide array of topics and this course does not pretend to be an exhaustive survey. Indeed, the focus of ECON634 is on studying the implications of economic models for what we find in reality and in discussing how we might test these models empirically on available data. This reading list is preliminary as more material will be added during the term as more papers and web links become available. The course will use a limited amount of formalism for which calculus will be needed and some knowledge in statistics and econometrics will also be useful.

Course Evaluation:

1. Presentation and report (Date TBA):

Two variations:

- A) You will be expected to write a research proposal on a development topic. The proposal should be written along the parameters set by SSHRC for a Ph.D. fellowship (Doctoral Awards and/or Junior Researcher). You will then be expected to do a presentation in class to present your research proposal. You will

be evaluated on a 20 minute presentation (**worth 20%**) and on the research proposal itself (**also worth 20%**), with the relevant information asked to applicants. **More precise guidelines and examples will be provided soon.**

<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/doctoral-eng.aspx#prop>

- B) You will be expected to present a paper (indicated by \$ in the reading list).
- You will be evaluated on a 20 minute presentation (**worth 20%**) and on a critical review of the paper (**also worth 20%**).
 - Please let me know which paper you have selected by January September 26th
 - Papers will be presented on a date to be determined with me. Presentation and report grades will be given to you only once everyone has presented.
 - You may have to present in teams. Though very unlikely, I will tell you how many students should be in a team, depending on the number of students in the course. Both the presentation and the critical review will be done in teams, with one single document per team.

2. Final exam (60%) (date TBA,)

There is no course textbook. A large number of useful readings will be made available. Most of them are available electronically. If some of the links do not work because of text software compatibility issues, please use the direct references and use the library site.

More readings may also be added during the course, depending on the course of events and/or new publications. For example, not only the world feels the effects of the Ukraine-Russia war, but there are other instances such as the civil conflicts in Ethiopia, the drought in the horn of Africa, floods in Pakistan, the repercussions of COVID-19 in developing countries, the debt burden of several countries (i.e. Sri Lanka) etc. These issues are multi-faceted, but one may certainly want to look at the economic factors underlying them.

I. Why Are Some Countries Rich and Others Poor? The Long-Run Causes of Economic Development : Institutions, Geography, Culture

I.1. Economic Development Across the World

Sen (1999), "Development as Freedom", e-book at the McGill library: Introduction, chapters 1 and 2

Deaton (2005), "[MEASURING POVERTY IN A GROWING WORLD \(OR MEASURING GROWTH IN A POOR WORLD\)](#)", The Review of Economics and Statistics VOL. LXXXVII

I.2. Solow Model

Levine and David Renelt (1992), "[A Sensitivity Analysis of Cross-Country Growth Regressions](#)", *The American Economic Review*, 82(4), pp. 942-963.

Hall and Jones (1999), "[Why do Some Countries Produce So Much More Output Per Worker than Others?](#)", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (1999) 114 (1): 83-116.

Sala-i-Martin, Xavier. 1997. "[I Just Ran Two Million Regressions.](#)" *American Economic Review* 87 (2): 178-83.

I.3. Long-Run Causes: Institutions, Geography, Culture

Cantoni. 2014. "[THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION: TESTING THE WEBER HYPOTHESIS IN THE GERMAN LANDS](#)", *Journal of the European Economic Association*

I.4. Empirical Evidence of the Role of Institutions

Acemoglu, Daron; Simon Johnson; James A. Robinson (2001), "[Reversal of Fortunes: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution](#)", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Acemoglu, Daron; Simon Johnson; James A. Robinson (2001), "[The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation](#)", *American Economic Review*

I.5. A Theory of the Formation of Institutions

\$ Anderson, Siwan, Patrick Francois, and Ashok Kotwal. 2015. "[Clientelism in Indian Villages.](#)" *American Economic Review*, 105 (6): 1780-1816.

Daron Acemoglu & Simon Johnson & James Robinson, 2005. "[The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth.](#)" *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Association*, vol. 95(3), pages 546-579, June.

Acemoglu, Cantoni, Johnson, Robinson (2011), "[The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution](#)", *American Economic Review* 101 (December 2011): 3286-3307.

Albouy (2012), "[The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation: Comment](#)", *American Economic Review* 2012, 102(6): 3059-3076

\$ Casey, Glennerster, Miguel (2012). "[Reshaping Institutions: Evidence on Aid Impacts Using a Preanalysis Plan](#)", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 127, Issue 4, November 2012, Pages 1755-1812.

\$ Humphreys, Sánchez de la Sierra, Van der Windt (2019). "[Exporting democratic practices: Evidence from a village governance intervention in Eastern Congo](#)", *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 140, September 2019, Pages 279-301.

I.6. Institutions Theory and Other Development Theories

Sachs, Jeffrey, 2005, "[The end of poverty : economic possibilities for our time](#)"

Clemens and Demombynes (2010), "[When Does Rigorous Impact Evaluation Make a Difference? The Case of the Millennium Villages](#)"

I.7. Property rights institutions

Besley, Ghatak (2010), "[Property Rights and Economic Development](#)", Handbook of Development Economics Volume 5, 2010, Pages 4525–4595

Goldstein and Udry (2008), "[The Profits of Power: Land Rights and Agricultural Investment in Ghana](#)", Journal of Political Economy 116.6 (2008): 981-1022.

Banerjee, Gertler and Ghatak (2002). "[Empowerment and Efficiency: Tenancy Reform in West Bengal.](#)" Journal of Political Economy 110.2 (2002): 239-80. Web.

\$ Goldstein, Hounbedji, Kondylis, O'Sullivan, Selod (2018), "[Formalization without certification? Experimental evidence on property rights and investment](#)", Journal of Development Economics, Volume 132, May 2018, Pages 57-74

II. Topic II: Behavioural Economics and Development

Cardenas, J.C. and J. Carpenter. 2008. "[Behavioural Development Economics: Lessons from Field Labs in the Developing World](#)" *Journal of Development Studies*. Vol. 44(3): 311-338.

Datta, S. and S. Mullainathan. 2014. "[Behavioural Design: A New Approach to Development Policy](#)" *Review of Income and Wealth* 60(1): 7-35

\$ Ashraf, N., J. Berry, and J. M. Shapiro. "[Can Higher Prices Stimulate Product Use? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Zambia.](#)" *American Economic Review* 100, no. 5 (December 2010): 2383-2413

Delavande, A., X. Giné and D. McKenzie. 2011. "[Measuring Subjective Expectations in Developing Countries: A Critical Review and New Evidence](#)" *Journal of Development Economics* Vol. 94: 151-163.

III. Topic: Credit, Risk and Insurance

III.1. Credit, Micro-credit and Micro-Finance

Karlan Dean and Jonathan Zinman, (2006), "[Observing Unobservables: Identifying Information Asymmetries with a Consumer Credit Field Experiment](#)".

Pitt, Khandker, (1998), "[The Impact of Group-Based Credit Programs on Poor Households in Bangladesh: Does the Gender of Participants Matter?](#)", *Journal of Political Economy*, 106(5), 958-996.

\$ Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster, Kinnan, 2015, « [The miracle of Microfinance? Evidence from a randomized evaluation](#)».

III.2. Risk-Sharing and Insurance

Udry, Christopher, (1990), "[Credit Markets in Northern Nigeria: Credit as Insurance in a Rural Economy](#)", *The World Bank Economic Review*

Grimard, F. "[Household consumption smoothing through ethnic ties: evidence from Cote d'Ivoire](#)," *Journal of Development Economics* 53 (2) (1997) pp. 391-422.

- Cole, S. A., Gine, X. and Vickery, J. I. 2013. "[How does risk management influence production decisions? evidence from a field experiment](#)". World Bank Policy Research Working Paper (6546).
- Cole, S., Gine, X., Tobacman, J., Townsend, R., Topalova, P. and Vickery, J. 2013. "[Barriers to household risk management: evidence from india](#)", American economic journal. Applied economics 5(1), 104.
- \$ Karlan, D. S., Osei, R., Osei-Akoto, I. and Udry, C. 2014. "[Agricultural decisions after relaxing credit and risk constraints](#)", The Quarterly Journal of Economics (597-652).

IV. Topic: Conflict and Economic Development

- Blattman, Chris and Ed Miguel. 2010 "[Civil War](#)" *Journal of Economic Literature* Vol. 48 (1)
- Collier, Paul and Dominic Rohner. 2008. "[Democracy, Development and Conflict](#)" *Journal of the European Economic Association* Vol. 6 (2-3): 531-540.
- Bauer, M., C. Blattman, J. Chytilova, J. henrich, E. Miguel and T. Mitts. 2016. "[Can War Foster Cooperation?](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 30(3): 249-274.
- \$ Akresh, Richard, Philip Verwimp and Tom Bundervoet 2011 "[Civil War, Crop Failure, and Child Stunting in Rwanda](#)" *Economic Development and Cultural Change* Vol. 59 (4)
- \$ Blattman, Chris and Jeannie Annan. 2010. "[The consequences of Child Soldiering](#)" *Review of Economics and Statistics* Vol. 92(4)

V. Topic: Technology Adoption in Agriculture

- \$ Conley, T. and C. Udry. 2010. "[Learning About a New Technology: Pineapple in Ghana.](#)" *American Economic Review* Vol. 100(1): 35-69.
- \$ Dulfo, E., M. Kremer and J. Robinson. 2011. "[Nudging farmers to use fertilizer: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Kenya.](#)" *American Economic Review* 101 (6): 2350-90.
- \$ Engle-Warnick, J., J. Escobal and S. Laszlo. 2011. "[Ambiguity Aversion and Portfolio Choice in Small-Scale Peruvian Farming](#)" *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 11(1): 1-56.
- Feder, G. et al. 1985. "[Adoption of Agricultural Innovations in Developing Countries: A Survey](#)" *Economic Development and Cultural Change* Vol. 33 (2): 255-298.
- \$ Foster, A. and M. Rosenzweig. "[Learning By Doing and Learning From Others: Human Capital and Technical Change in Agriculture.](#)" *Journal of Political Economy* Vol. 103(6) (Dec. 1995): 1176-1209.
- \$ Suri, T. 2011. "[Selection and Comparative Advantage in Technology Adoption](#)" *Econometrica* 79 (1): 159-209.

VI. Topic: Foreign Aid

- Chapter 11 of *World Development Report 2000/2001*, Aid and Poverty.
- Burnside, C. and D. Dollar, 1997, "[Aids Spurs Growth -- in a Sound Policy Environment](#)," *Finance and Development*, December 1997, Vol. 34 no. 4, pp. 4-7.
- \$ Easterly, W. "[The Cartel of Good Intentions: The Problem Bureaucracy in Foreign Aid](#)", *Journal of Policy Reform*, 2003, pp.1-28.
- \$ Easterly, W., R. Levine, and D. Roodman "[New Data, New Doubts: A Comment on Burnside and Dollar's "Aid, Policies, and Growth"](#)"(2000)" *American Economic Review*, 2003, forthcoming.
- \$ Feyzioglu, T., V. Swaroop, and M. Zhu, "[A Panel Data Analysis of the Fungibility of Foreign Aid](#)," *World Bank Economic Review*, Volume 12, Number 1, January 1998
Alternative Link:
<http://www.worldbank.org/research/journals/wber/revjan98/revjan98.htm>
- Homi Kharas. 2007. "[The New Reality of Aid](#)" Wolfensohn Center for Development at Brookings, briefing paper 2007.
- Michael A. Clemens and Gabriel Demombynes. 2010. "[When Does Rigorous Impact Evaluation Make a Difference? The Case of the Millennium Villages.](#)" CGD Working Paper 174. Washington, D.C.: Center for Global Development.
- Jean-Michel Severino and Olivier Ray. 2009. "[The End of ODA: Death and Rebirth of a Global Public Policy.](#)" CGD Working Paper 167. Washington, D.C.: Center for Global Development.
- William D. Savedoff. 2011. "[Incentive Proliferation? Making Sense of a New Wave of Development Programs](#)" CGD Essay. Washington, D.C.: Center for Global Development.
- Nancy Qian. 2015, Making Progress on Foreign Aid, *Annu. Rev. Econ.* 2015. 7:277–308

Aid and Financing:

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/how-do-you-measure-aid-quality-and-who-ranks-highest>

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/biggest-club-youve-probably-never-heard>

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/rising-sdg-challenge-unique-contribution-international-development-finance-club>

Aid and Climate Change

Intro: World Bank page

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>

Dell, M., Jones, B. F., & Olken, B. A. (2014). What do we learn from the weather? The new climate-economy literature. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 52(3), 740-98.

Overview chapter of Hallegatte, Stephane, Mook Bangalore, Laura Bonzanigo, Marianne Fay, Tamaro Kane, Ulf Narloch, Julie Rozenberg, David Treguer, and Adrien Vogt-

Schilb. 2016. *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*. Climate Change and Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22787/9781464806735.pdf>

Amit Prakash, Boiling Point, Finance & Development, September 2018, vol. 55, no. 3

https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/southeast-asia-climate-change-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-prakash.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Pierpaolo Grippa, Jochen Schmittmann, and Felix Suntheim, Climate Change and Financial Risk FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, DECEMBER 2019, VOL. 56, NO. 4

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/12/climate-change-central-banks-and-financial-risk-grippa.htm>

Ian Parry, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 2019, VOL. 56, NO. 2 What Is Carbon Taxation?

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/06/what-is-carbon-taxation-basics.htm>

Kenneth Gillingham, Carbon Calculus, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, DECEMBER 2019, VOL. 56, NO. 4

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/12/the-true-cost-of-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-gillingham.htm>

VII. Topic : On-going issues: COVID, Conflict, Climate , Debt,

The pandemic spread worldwide but its short-term impact on developing countries has been quite heterogeneous: some countries, perhaps due to inadequate testing, seemed to have been less affected than others, though one now realizes that the longer-term impacts will be quite important. After COVID, there is also the shock of the Russia-Ukraine war that is still having repercussions in developing countries, notably in terms of inflation, interest rates and more specifically food prices and availability. Finally, one should not forget that developing countries also face climate change issues and one must find ways to adapt and make countries more resilient in the future.

We will use these shocks to reflect on issues of macroeconomic performances of developing countries, of fiscal issues, of corruption as well as what it may imply for foreign aid, but in the short run (in terms of programming) as well as in the long-run (i.e. debt).

For this discussion, we will use several articles from the preliminary list below. As new papers are available and as new elements may arise, we will add new articles

and links to the list below. The required readings and the optional readings will be identified in early March.

Dell, M., Jones, B. F., & Olken, B. A. (2014). What do we learn from the weather? The new climate-economy literature. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 52(3), 740-98.

Amit Prakash, Boiling Point, Finance & Development, September 2018, vol. 55, no. 3

https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/southeast-asia-climate-change-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-prakash.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Pierpaolo Grippa, Jochen Schmittmann, and Felix Suntheim, Climate Change and Financial Risk FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, DECEMBER 2019, VOL. 56, NO. 4

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/12/climate-change-central-banks-and-financial-risk-grippa.htm>

Ian Parry, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 2019, VOL. 56, NO. 2 What Is Carbon Taxation?

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/06/what-is-carbon-taxation-basics.htm>

Kenneth Gillingham, Carbon Calculus, FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, DECEMBER 2019, VOL. 56, NO. 4

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2019/12/the-true-cost-of-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-gillingham.htm>

Security issues:

Harari, M., & La Ferrara, E. (2018). Conflict, climate and cells: A disaggregated analysis. *Review of Economics and Statistics*,

Fjelde, H. (2015). Farming or fighting? Agricultural price shocks and civil war in Africa. *World Development*, 67, 525-534

Foreign aid

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/overview>

Overview chapter of Hallegatte, Stephane, Mook Bangalore, Laura Bonzanigo, Marianne Fay, Tamaro Kane, Ulf Narloch, Julie Rozenberg, David Treguer, and Adrien Vogt-Schilb. 2016. *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*. Climate Change and Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22787/9781464806735.pdf>

Debt numbers

https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/12/12/riding-the-global-debt-rollercoaster?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Defaults Loom as Poor Countries Face an Economic

Storm <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/03/business/developing-countries-debt-defaults.html>

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/how-global-debt-crisis-could-make-hunger-crisis-worse>

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/debt-climate-swaps-wont-solve-climate-or-debt-crises-can-they-help>

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/abcs-sovereign-debt-relief>

Ghana

<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2Fon.ft.com%2F3H1AXsE&data=05%7C01%7Cfranque.grimard%40mcgill.ca%7C393fb9653514442e054808dad3c543fb%7Ccd31967152e74a68afa9fcf8f89f09ea%7C0%7C0%7C638055141437001467%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLjBtIl6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sddata=%2FXRKBmeM%2BbL8wVI4XUgQBxfPpt2qpMRY9vXUaemXTXk%3D&reserved=0>

[https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/11/17/there-is-a-better-way-to-help-poor-countries-fight-climate-change?utm_content=ed-picks-article-link-2&etear=nl climate 2&utm_campaign=r.the-climate-issue&utm_medium=email.internal-newsletter.np&utm_source=salesforce-marketing-cloud&utm_term=11/21/2022&utm_id=1396455](https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/11/17/there-is-a-better-way-to-help-poor-countries-fight-climate-change?utm_content=ed-picks-article-link-2&etear=nl%20climate%202&utm_campaign=r.the-climate-issue&utm_medium=email.internal-newsletter.np&utm_source=salesforce-marketing-cloud&utm_term=11/21/2022&utm_id=1396455)

<https://www.cgdev.org/topics/sustainable-development-finance>

Climate Change blogs in IMF

<https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs>

<https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/11/15/how-blended-finance-can-support-climate-transition-in-emerging-and-developing-economies>

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/11/17/there-is-a-better-way-to-help-poor-countries-fight-climate-change>

China

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2019/07/13/a-new-study-tracks-the-surge-in-chinese-loans-to-poor-countries>

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/08/25/how-china-should-handle-its-bad-loans-to-poor-countries>

Sri Lanka

<https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2022/07/19/why-is-sri-lanka-in-turmoil>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/10/sri-lanka-protests-how-did-we-get-here-and-what-comes-next>

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2022/04/16/sri-lankas-default-could-be-the-first-of-many>

Climate change

<https://www.economist.com/climate-change>

<https://www.economist.com/schools-brief/2020/05/30/climate-adaptation-policies-are-needed-more-than-ever>

<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2022/11/11/how-much-money-is-needed-to-fight-climate-change>

If time remains at the end, or if you want more depth into the institutions topic:

Topic : Institutions and Economic Development: an Empirical Microeconomic Exploration

1 Property Rights Institutions

Besley, Ghatak (2010), "[Property Rights and Economic Development](#)", Handbook of Development Economics Volume 5, 2010, Pages 4525–4595

Goldstein and Udry (2008), "[The Profits of Power: Land Rights and Agricultural Investment in Ghana](#)", Journal of Political Economy 116.6 (2008): 981-1022.

Banerjee, Gertler and Ghatak (2002). "[Empowerment and Efficiency: Tenancy Reform in West Bengal](#)." Journal of Political Economy 110.2 (2002): 239-80. Web.

\$ Goldstein, Hounbedji, Kondylis, O'Sullivan, Selod (2018), "[Formalization without certification? Experimental evidence on property rights and investment](#)", Journal of Development Economics, Volume 132, May 2018, Pages 57-74

\$ Besley (1995), "[Property Rights and Investment Incentives: Theory and Evidence from Ghana](#)", Journal of Political Economy Volume 103, Number 5.

\$ Field (2007), "[Entitled to Work: Urban Property Rights and Labor Supply in Peru](#)", The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Vol. 122, No. 4 (Nov., 2007), pp. 1561-1602.

\$ Galiana, Scharrodsky (2010), "[Property rights for the poor: Effects of land titling](#)", Journal of Public Economics, Volume 94, Issues 9–10, October 2010, Pages 700-729

\$ Besley, Burgess (2000), "[Land Reform, Poverty Reduction, and Growth: Evidence from India](#)", The Quarterly Journal of Economics Vol. 115, No. 2 (May, 2000), pp. 389-430

2 Legal institutions

Chemin (2009). "[The impact of the judiciary on entrepreneurship: Evaluation of Pakistan's "Access to Justice Programme"](#)", Journal of Public Economics, Volume 93, Issues 1–2, February 2009, Pages 114–125.

Glaeser, Shleifer (2002), "[Legal Origins](#)", The Quarterly Journal of Economics (2002) 117 (4): 1193-1229.

Djankov, La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes and Shleifer (2003), "[Courts](#)", The Quarterly Journal of Economics (2003) 118 (2): 453-517.

Acemoglu and Johnson (2005), "[Unbundling Institutions](#)", Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 113, No. 5 (October 2005), pp. 949-995

Chemin (2020), "[Judicial Efficiency and Firm Productivity: Evidence from a World Database of Judicial Reforms](#)", Review of Economics and Statistics

Abera, Chemin (2021), "[Does Legal Representation Increase Investment? Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Kenya](#)", Forthcoming, Journal of Development Economics

3 Provision of Public Services

Olken (2007), "[Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia](#)", Journal of Political Economy

Burgess, Jedwab, Miguel, Morjaria, Padró i Miquel (2015), "[The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya](#)", American Economic Review, Vol. 105, No. 6, June 2015 (pp. 1817-51).

Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster (2008), "[Putting a Band-Aid on a Corpse: Incentives for Nurses in the Indian Public Health Care System](#)", Journal of the European Economic Association, Volume 6, Issue 2-3, 1 May 2008, Pages 487–500.

Chen, Glewwe, Kremer, Moulin (2001), "[Interim Report on a Teacher Attendance Incentive Program in Kenya](#)".

\$ Duflo, Hanna, Ryan (2012), "[Incentives Work: Getting Teachers to Come to School](#)", American Economic Review, Vol. 102, No. 4, June 2012 (pp. 1241-78)

4 Access to Credit

Karlan, Zinman, (2009), "[Observing Unobservables: Identifying Information Asymmetries with a Consumer Credit Field Experiment](#)", Econometrica, Vol.77, Issue 6 November 2009 Pages 1993-2008.

De Soto (2000), "[The mystery of capital : why capitalism triumphs in the West and fails everywhere else](#)", Basic Books.

Pitt, Khandker, (1998), "[The Impact of Group-Based Credit Programs on Poor Households in Bangladesh: Does the Gender of Participants Matter?](#)", *Journal of Political Economy*, 106(5), 958-996.

\$ Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster, Kinnan, 2015, "[The miracle of Microfinance? Evidence from a randomized evaluation](#)", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2015, 7(1): 22–53

\$ Tarozzi, Desai, Johnson (2015), "[The Impacts of Microcredit: Evidence from Ethiopia](#)", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2015, 7(1): 54–89

\$ Attanasio, Augsburg, De Haas, Fitzsimons, Harmgart (2015), "[The Impacts of Microfinance: Evidence from Joint-Liability Lending in Mongolia](#)", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2015, 7(1): 90–122

\$ Crépon, Devoto, Duflo, Parienté (2015), "[Estimating the Impact of Microcredit on Those Who Take It Up: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Morocco](#)", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2015, 7(1): 123–150

\$ Angelucci, Karlan, Zinman (2015), "[Microcredit Impacts: Evidence from a Randomized Microcredit Program Placement Experiment by Compartamos Banco](#)", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2015, 7(1): 151–182

\$ Augsburg, De Haas, Harmgart, Meghir (2015), "[The Impacts of Microcredit: Evidence from Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2015, 7(1): 183–203

\$ Karlan, D. S., Osei, R., Osei-Akoto, I. and Udry, C. 2014. "[Agricultural decisions after relaxing credit and risk constraints](#)", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (597-652).

5 Political institutions

Chemin (2021), "[Can judiciaries constrain executive power? Evidence from judicial reforms](#)", *Journal of Public Economics*, 2021, vol. 199, issue C

Sánchez de la Sierra (2021), "[Whither Formal Contracts?](#)", *Econometrica*, Vol. 89, Issue 5 p. 2341-2373

Persson, Tabellini (2005), "[The Economic Effects of Constitutions](#)", MIT Press.

Besley, Burgess (2002), "[The Political Economy of Government Responsiveness: Theory and Evidence from India](#)", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 117, Issue 4, November 2002, Pages 1415–1451

Acemoglu, Robinson (2005), "[Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy](#)", Cambridge University Press.

Acemoglu, Robinson (2019), "[The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty](#)", Penguin Press New York 2019

\$ Aidt, Franck (2015), "[Democratization Under the Threat of Revolution: Evidence From the Great Reform Act of 1832](#)", *Econometrica*

\$ Aidt and Jensen (2014), "[Workers of the world, unite! Franchise extensions and the threat of revolution in Europe, 1820–1938](#)", *European Economic Review*.

Aidt and Leon (2016), "[The Democratic Window of Opportunity: Evidence from Riots in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)", *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

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\$ Casey, Glennerster, Miguel (2012). “[Reshaping Institutions: Evidence on Aid Impacts Using a Preanalysis Plan](#)”, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 127, Issue 4, November 2012, Pages 1755–1812.

\$ Humphreys, Sánchez de la Sierra, Van der Windt (2019). “[Exporting democratic practices: Evidence from a village governance intervention in Eastern Congo](#)”, *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 140, September 2019, Pages 279-301.

\$ Björkman, Svensson (2009), “[Power to the People: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment on Community-Based Monitoring in Uganda](#)”, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 124, Issue 2, May 2009, Pages 735–769,

\$Beath, Christi, Enikolopov (2017), “[Direct democracy and resource allocation: Experimental evidence from Afghanistan](#)”, *Journal of Development Economics* 124 (2017) 199–213

Official Disclaimers:

1. Preliminary Outline

This is a preliminary outline. This reading list is preliminary as more material will be added during the term as more papers and web links become available. Furthermore, I hope to use the MyCourses page as a course blog to point out some of the interesting issues being discussed, papers being written, or points made by various players of the development world.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the university’s control, the content and or evaluation scheme are subject to change

2. Language

*In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This right applies to **all** written work that is to be graded, from one-word answers to dissertations. This statement is not needed for courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives or for courses in which students do not submit written work that is to be graded. Instructors who cannot grade French written work should consult their Chair/Director or Dean, in faculties without departments, to make arrangements for grading French submissions.*

3. Academic Integrity statement [approved by Senate on 29 January 2003]:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr <<http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity/>> for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr <<http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity/>>).

4. Final Examinations

According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations, at www.mcgill.ca.

Health guidelines

This course includes in-person teaching, and learning activities have been planned in accordance with public health directives and McGill's protocols. It is important, however, to ensure you have read and abide by the following:

- Please review and follow the [Health Guidelines for Students](#), and it is imperative that you understand when to stay home if, for example, you are [experiencing COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms while on campus, please follow the [required guidelines](#), which include ensuring you have a mask on, isolate in a closed, private room, immediately call 1-877-644-4545 (Info-Santé) for instructions, and notify the University by calling 514-398-3000.
- **Masks are optional in classrooms settings**, and masks will be available for you on campus. Masks are also to be worn when entering and circulating in buildings and classrooms.
- If you are in a situation that might require you to miss some lectures or assignments because of short-term absences due to COVID-19, you are to request an academic accommodation using the online form found under the "Personal" menu in Minerva; the form is called "**COVID-19 Academic Accommodations Request Form**". You are asked to use this form instead of requesting accommodations directly from your instructor.
- Finally, the context of attending University during a pandemic will bring on additional stress and may impact your wellbeing. Please do not hesitate to reach out for support if necessary, and access the many resources available, including, for example, [Student Services](#), the [Office of the Dean of Students](#), and your Faculty's Student Affairs Office.

These are guidelines for remote courses. They will be applicable if the course pivots to remote.

Extraordinary Circumstances Statement:

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Copyright of lectures Statement:

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for purposes of your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation). You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Lecture/Conference/Seminar Recording Statement:

By enrolling in a remote course, you accept that fixed sessions will be recorded. You must consent to being recorded if you attend a lecture or participate in a component of a course that is being recorded. You will be notified through a "pop-up" box in Zoom if a lecture or portion of a class is being recorded. If you are not comfortable being in a class that is recorded, you may decide to not take part by logging off Zoom. Students who log off will be able to later watch the video recording in MyCourses.

For pedagogical reasons and for the enrichment of the experience of all students, attendance may be monitored and/or active participation may be expected or required during fixed (synchronous) class time. As such, you may be asked to turn on your camera and audio. If you do not have the necessary resources (e.g., adequate Internet bandwidth or equipment) to do so, inform your instructor at the beginning of term so appropriate accommodations can be made.

In addition to the recording of your image and voice, your name (or preferred name) may be displayed on screen, and your instructor may call your name during the lecture. As such, this personal information will be disclosed to classmates, whether during the lecture or in viewing the recording. By remaining in classes that are being recorded, you accept that personal information of this kind may be disclosed to others, whether during the lecture or when viewing the recording.

Etiquette Statement:

The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:

1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
2. Visual backgrounds
3. "Chat" boxes

To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted throughout your class, unless invited by the instructor to speak.

You should follow instructors' directions about the use of the "chat" function on remote learning platforms.