

# Course Syllabus

Economics 327

Economic Development in Africa

Winter 2024

This course will examine central issues of development economics with a geographical focus on Ghana. Our methodological approach will be to use primary data and rigorous empirical methods to examine patterns of economic activity and to evaluate the effectiveness of development policies and programs. The focus of the class will be on your own examination of primary data from multiple surveys from Ghana as you write a series of nine short papers about these topics.

## Topics

Development economics is a large and rapidly growing field and Africa is a tremendously diverse continent. From the multitude of potential courses that one could design around issues of economic development in Africa, I have chosen to focus on daily life. How do people, families, firms and communities organize their economic lives when faced with the tight constraints imposed by their environment? We will use primary data to learn about this environment; about the definition and distribution of poverty; about the complex interactions between health, education and economic well-being; about agriculture and rural economic organization; and about risk and financial markets.

[Course Requirements](#)

[Weekly Assignments](#)

[Assignment Examples and class notes](#)

[Grading](#)

[Course policies](#)

[Course Schedule to an external site.](#)

[Ghana Socioeconomic Panel Survey Public data Links](#)

*Udry Office hours:* Thursdays 3:30pm – 5:00pm at Kellogg Global Hub 3427

**Teaching Assistant:** Matteo Ruzzante

*Email:* [matteo.ruzzante@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:matteo.ruzzante@u.northwestern.edu)

*Office Hours:* Thursdays 2:00pm – 3:30pm at Kellogg Global Hub 3198 ([Zoom option Links to an external site.](#): 957 9220 3304)

## Course Summary:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Due</b>
Wed Jan 3, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Reading for Week 1</a>	due by 9:30am
Mon Jan 8, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 1</a>	due by 6am
Thu Jan 11, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Fri Jan 12, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Session</a>	9:30am to 10:50am
Wed Jan 17, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 2</a>	due by 6am
Thu Jan 18, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Fri Jan 19, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Session</a>	9:30am to 10:50am
Mon Jan 22, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 3</a>	due by 6am
Thu Jan 25, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Mon Jan 29, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 4</a>	due by 6am
Thu Feb 1, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Mon Feb 5, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 5</a>	due by 6am
Thu Feb 8, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Mon Feb 12, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 6</a>	due by 6am
Thu Feb 15, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Mon Feb 19, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 7</a>	due by 6am
Thu Feb 22, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Mon Feb 26, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 8</a>	due by 6am
Thu Feb 29, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm
Wed Mar 6, 2024	Assignment <a href="#">Paper 9</a>	due by 6am
Thu Mar 7, 2024	Calendar Event <a href="#">TA Office Hours</a>	2pm to 3:30pm