

School of Economics and Finance

## **ECON 415 TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS**

Trimester Two 2008

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

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#### **Names and Contact Details**

COORDINATOR/LECTURER: Dr. Geoff Bertram,  
Office RH 423, Telephone: 463-5814 (extn: 5814)  
Email: [Geoff.Bertram@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Geoff.Bertram@vuw.ac.nz)

#### **Trimester Dates**

Monday 7 July – Saturday 8 November 2008.  
Examination dates for trimester 2: Friday 17 October to Saturday 8 November 2008.

#### **Class Times and Room Numbers**

TIMETABLE: Mondays 2.40 – 4.30 in RWW126.

#### **Course Content and Objectives**

The course explores a range of current issues in development economics, by discussion of recent journal articles, books and working papers from leading researchers in the field. The aim is to advance students' familiarity with the contemporary literature and with areas of ongoing scholarly debate. The teaching format will be seminar-style with class members expected to read widely and to participate in discussion.

#### **Expected Workload**

Honours study is generally expected to require at least 12.5 hours per week. The class will normally meet for two hours each Thursday. Students will be expected to put in at least two hours each week reading the background material for the session, in addition to which each student will be expected to prepare three detailed presentations, summarising and evaluating a set of papers in depth and leading discussion. Joint presentations by two or three students may be arranged for certain topics.

#### **Group Work**

Students are encouraged to collaborate in reviewing material and preparing for presentations, but all assessment will rest on individual performance and contributions.

## **Readings**

There is no set text. Journal articles, monographs and working papers used for the class will be distributed. A list of topics and key readings will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard. Students should endeavour to look through the latest issues of key journals such as *Journal of Development Economics*, *World Development*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, and *Journal of Development Studies*.

## **Assessment Requirements**

Assessment will be on the basis of students' seminar presentations (at least two of which must be distilled into written essays, unless by agreement with the course coordinator the student adopts to extend and build up one to the level of a full research essay) on course topics, and the final examination. The final mark will weight these two assessment components equally [Essay 1 = 25%, Essay 2 = 25%, or Research Essay = 50%; Final Examination = 50%] unless the final exam mark is higher, in which case the exam mark will be used. Credit may also be given for excellence in oral presentation.

Students who enrol in courses with examinations should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. Examination dates for trimester 2: Friday 17 October to Saturday 8 November 2008.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

Each member of the class must prepare and present not less than TWO seminar presentations based on allocated readings.

## **Communication of Additional Information**

All necessary information will be placed on Blackboard

## **Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**

### Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

### Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for :

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

## **General University Policies and Statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx)

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website [www.victoria.ac.nz/fca](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca) under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)

## **Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme

is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email [manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email [pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz) or phone (04) 463 5842.