Economics 260: Theories of Economic Development

University of California, Riverside
Winter 2016

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to expose students to a variety of issues and techniques that could be explored further in the writing of a dissertation. The course will focus on poverty. It combines theory, measurement and empirical papers that address issues of current importance in developing countries.

Course Requirements

The grade for the course will be calculated as a weighted average of the following components:

1. A 15-20 page final paper related to a topic on the syllabus. The paper will be due on the last day of class. It should include a 3-5 page research proposal that describes an original research question and proposes how it could be carried out. 50%

2. A journal with 10 reaction pieces to readings on the syllabus. These should have about one page of summary and one page of critical analysis for each reading. Presentation powerpoints can substitute for the summary. One RP will be due each week. Late submissions will be penalized. 30%

3. Presentations and class participation 20%

Valuable References

Brief Course Outline

1. Poverty: History, Concepts and Issues
2. Measures of Poverty and Vulnerability
3. Mobility: Concepts and Applications
4. Income, Assets, and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty
5. Multidimensional Poverty
6. Chronic poverty
7. Changes in Poverty over Time and Space
8. Conditional Cash Transfer Programs (CCTs)
9. Evaluation of Anti-Poverty Programs
10. Poverty, Institutions and Development
11. Presentation of student papers
Course Outline and Readings

1. History, Concepts and Issues


2. Measures of Poverty and Vulnerability

Poverty


Vulnerability


3. Mobility: Concepts and Applications


4. Income, Assets, and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty

**Assets vs. Income--1**


**Assets vs. Income--2**


*Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty*

5. Multi-Dimensional Poverty


6. Chronic Poverty


7. Changes in Poverty over Time and Space

*Growth, Distribution, and the Sectoral Components of Growth*


*Poverty Mapping*


8. Conditional Cash Transfer Programs (CCTs)


CCTs and Potential Synergies


9. Evaluation of Anti-Poverty Programs


10. Poverty, Institutions and Development


