Economics 260: Theories of Economic Development

University of California, Riverside
Winter 2019

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Winter 2019 Office Hours:
Mon. 10am-12pm or by appointment

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 page final paper related to a topic on the syllabus. The paper will be due on the last day of class. It should include, in addition, 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 (RP) to readings on the syllabus. These should have about one page of summary and one page of critical analysis for each reading. Presentation slides can substitute for the summary. One RP will be due each week. Late submissions will be penalized. 35%

3. Presentations and class participation 15%

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. Poverty, Institutions and Economic Development
6. Multidimensional Poverty
7. Anti-Poverty Policies: Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs)
8. Income Diversification and Pathways Out of Poverty
9. Agricultural Household Models and Rural Poverty
10. Farm Size and Productivity: The Inverse Relationship Debate
Course Outline and Readings

1. Poverty: 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. Poverty, Institutions and Economic Development


6. Multidimensional Poverty


7. Anti-Poverty Policies: Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs)


CCTs and Potential Synergies


Recent NBER Papers on CCTs

8. Income Diversification and Pathways Out of Poverty


Lanjouw, Peter. 2007. "Does the Rural Nonfarm Economy Contribute to Poverty Reduction?", chapter 3 in Haggblade, Hazell, & Reardon (eds), Transforming the Rural Nonfarm Economy. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.


9. Agricultural Household Models and Rural Poverty


10. **Farm Size and Productivity: The Inverse Relationship Debate**


