

**Course: Development Economics (ECO-6500-1)**

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**Offered to: M.A. Economics (Final Year), Spring 2024**

**Objective:**

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with a wide range of issues that hold key to the economic development in the contemporary world. This course will follow critical investigation of a set of recent relevant research papers with an emphasis on possible policies and remedies to overcome poverty and inequality. We will begin with a quick re-cap of development theories and transition into micro issues related to development. The focus will be on the relationship between development and institutions, education, gender, social capital and culture. The underlying objective of this course is to familiarize students with the dimensions of policy research to explore the relationship between theory and practice in policy research. At the end of the course, students should be able to critically think and carry out evidence backed policy research crucial for economic development. The prerequisite for this course is the understanding of basic econometrics.

**Requirements (Reading List and other materials):**

There is no particular book. I will share relevant book chapters for the concepts and applied research papers as we move along the topics.

**Broad Topics:**

- I. Introduction to Development Economics
- II. Poverty and Inequality
- III. Non-market Institutions
- IV. Experiments and Mental Models
- V. The FLP Puzzle in India
- VI. Migration
- VII. Identity and Social Cohesion
- VIII. Affirmative Action Policies
- IX. Environment and Climate Change
- X. Reforms and Development

Apart from this, we will have dedicated lectures for research proposal writing discussion and policy debates.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Familiarity with issues inhibiting nations from development
2. Understanding of causal concepts
3. Think critically about development policies
4. Identification of literature gaps for future research in development economics

5. A working knowledge of writing a policy research paper

### **Grading Rubric**

Grading will be absolute. Can be broken down into following:

Class attendance + participation	20%
Paper presentation*	15%
Short research proposal/paper#	25%
Policy Debate in Class+	10%
Take home final exam@	30%

\*Probably a group task (depends on class size). Each group will be assigned an applied research paper from the reading list for presentation/discussion for 45 minutes.

#Probably a group task (depends on class size). Each group will come up with a novel research idea related to development policy. Groups are required to discuss the idea in the class towards after the mid semester break. Students would be required to submit a formal written research proposal incorporating feedback from the class discussions.

+ Individual task. We will have an open house (discussion) in class that would focus on learnings from the course around developmental policies.

@ Individual task. Students will get 24 hours to complete the take home exam towards the end of the semester. Cheating will be dealt harshly in terms of grades.

### **Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is expected. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Attendance and participation in the class accounts for 20% of your grades. These grades depend on interaction, attention and participation in the class discussions along with show up.