Advanced Development Economics – Selected Topics

The purpose of this course is to provide a rigorous introduction to certain key factors, historical as well as emerging, that have shaped the general economic and social landscape of the developing world. While our main focus will be the set of factors that determine growth and prosperity of the economically disadvantaged, we shall reflect on broader aspects of Development beyond Economic Growth, which deals with poverty and inequality, education, health etc. Our method will be essentially analytical with strong emphasis on theoretical mechanisms and relevant empirical findings. We shall draw from important texts and papers and restructure materials to fit the course requirement. The list of topics we shall cover in this course is as follows.

2. Economic Growth under Ideal and Non-Ideal Conditions (Lecture 2)
3. Convergence, Divergence and Poverty Traps – Role of Imperfect Credit Market (lecture 2 and 3)
4. Behavioural Complexities – Status Effect, Growth and Malnutrition (Lecture 3)
5. Labour Market Issues – Rural-Urban Migration, Informal Sector, Efficiency Wage Hypothesis (Lecture 4 and 5)
6. Open Economy Issues - Trade and Growth, Openness and Inequality (Lecture 6 and 7)
7. Political Economy Perspective – Growth vs. Redistribution, Economic Reform, Corruption and Growth (Lecture 8)
9. Actual and Effective Policy Examples and New research Ideas (Lecture 10)

Following are some of the resources we will use along with the lecture notes.

General Readings for an Overview


Reference Books

Research Articles for Lectures 1, 2 and 3


Research Articles for Lectures 4 and 5

3. David H. Autor - "Lecture Note: Efficiency wages, the Shapiro-Stiglitz Model" MIT and NBER, accessible at http://economics.mit.edu/files/548
Research Articles for Lecture 6 and 7


Research Article for Lecture 8


Research Article for Lecture 9

1. Banerjee and Duflo (2008)– The Experimental Approach to Development Economics, NBER Paper no. 14467

The examination will be in terms of a paper the students have to submit on completion of the course.