Development Economics II

Course description and objectives

This course will introduce students to the evolution of the development discourse over time, as well as to alternative paradigms of development. The idea is to emphasize the contested nature of the meaning and pursuit of development. The course will begin with classical political economy, which revolved around the problematic of growth, and then move on to the origins and evolution of development economics in the aftermath of World War II. The objective of the course is to introduce students to various critical traditions in development thought that have often figured in debates against dominant perspectives. The course will end with a discussion of major contemporary policy issues and how different strategies to development flow from alternative theoretical frameworks. This course complements Development Economics-I in providing a comprehensive coverage of the literature on economic development.

Part I of this course provides a broad overview of the evolution of the discipline and introduces the major contending paradigms, while Part II examines some of the implications of these alternative theories in the contemporary world in terms of contending strategies and policies. Topics to be covered include origin and evolution of the idea of economic development; economic growth in classical political economy; early theories of development and structuralist perspectives; development of underdevelopment – neo-Marxian theories; feminist perspectives on development; ecological critique of growth; development practices and the post-development critique; globalization and contemporary debates in development; and alternative strategies to development and inclusive growth.

The following is a list of topics and readings to be covered in the course. The students are required to seriously and critically engage with the readings and bring their thoughts to classroom discussions. Readings may be altered, added, and/or deleted depending on the progress of the course.

1. Introduction: Contending ideas and paradigms of development – importance of theoretical differences
   Class discussions

2. Development: Emergence of a discipline


3. **Capital accumulation and growth in classical political economy: Prequel to the emergence of the discipline**


*Reference*


4. **Capital accumulation, industrialization, transition: Early development theories and structuralist perspectives**


5. **Radical critiques of capitalist (under)development**


6. **Neoclassical challenge to “development economics”**


7. **Broadening of development economics: Basic needs, capabilities and human development**


8. **Globalization and the mainstream development discourse**


9. **Critiques and alternatives: Feminist perspectives on development**


10. **Critiques and alternatives: Ecological perspectives on development**


11. **Critiques and alternatives: Development as an apparatus of power – Postdevelopment**


12. **Critiques and alternatives: Class and development**


13. **Development Strategy, Inclusive Growth and the Role of Employment**


14. **Sectoral Strategies for Equitable Growth: The role of Agriculture**


15. **Industrialisation for Inclusive Growth: What are the Options?**


United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (2010) *Combating Poverty and Inequality*, Chapter 1


16. **Pro-Poor Monetary and Fiscal Policy**

Alfredo Saad-Filho (undated) *Pro-poor Fiscal and Monetary Policies*. Reading Material for UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs


17. **The Scope of International Trade for Inclusive Growth**


18. **Redistribution for Equitable Growth: What are the alternatives?**


19. **Social Policy and its Relationship with Inclusive Growth**


20. **Environmental Sustainability and the idea of Green Growth**


21. **Case Study in Inclusive Growth: East Asia**


Ashwani Saith (undated) Reflections on South Asian prospects in East Asian Perspective. ILO working Paper