Syllabus
ECON 261: Contemporaneous Development Strategies

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General information
Time and location: TR 12:40-02:00 p.m. SPR 4128
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Course description
This is the last course covering the field of development economics. The focus of the course will be on “microeconomic” topics related to development economics and it will be a balance between theoretical issues and applied work.

Requirements and grading
Two referee reports (due April 28 and May 28) 15% each.
One presentation 30%.
One paper (due June 4) 40%.
The guidelines for the referee reports (including the list of papers to choose from) will be posted later on the course’s website. This is a good time for graduate students to start using typesetting software instead of your regular word processing. A very popular Windows version of \LaTeX \ is MiKTeX (http://www.miktex.org/). You will need an editor for that, where TextPad (http://www.textpad.com/) or WinEdt (http://www.winedt.com/) are good options. If you are rich you can use Scientific Word instead.

Textbooks

These textbooks are suggested. We will use some chapters from them but most of the readings will be from the papers listed in the course outline.


Course outline and readings

The [*] symbol indicates the required readings. All others are suggested but some of them will be covered in class.

I. Measurement issues: Poverty, inequality, vulnerability and mobility

Poverty

- [*] Deaton, A. (1997) [Section 3.1].


Inequality


Vulnerability


Mobility


Multidimensional Framework (Invited Speaker: Prasanta Pattanaik)

II. Poverty dynamics


III. Credit markets


IV. Risk Sharing and Informal Insurance


V. Intrahousehold allocations: Theory and applications


VI. Social interactions


VII. Early Life Investments


VIII. Institutions: micro evidence


IX. Corruption


