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AEM 6670/ECON7700
Topics in Development Economics

Spring 2022. Prerequisite: Basic graduate courses in AEM or ECON, or equivalent with Instructor's permission. Class meets: Thursdays, 7.00 pm-9.30 pm. Location: TBD.

This course is targeted to graduate students who have done the basic courses and are now looking to develop Doctoral or Masters thesis topics in development economics broadly construed. It is not a standard "lectures plus written test" course. There will be lectures, but the core of the course is reading and research leading to a term paper. All those registered for the course will be required to do the term paper. In close interaction with me and in a highly structured program, each student will define and develop a specific topic, do a literature search and critical review, highlight some open questions for research and make some headway on one or more of these questions. Alternatively, for those students who have already made some progress towards their dissertation, the exercise can be a step towards completing a chapter of the dissertation. The term paper is expected to be around 40 pages double space, all-inclusive, in length. There will be a presentation of the term paper to the class towards the end of the semester.

The overall plan for the semester is as follows. During the first weeks I will lecture on topics of interest to me, suggesting ideas for research and literatures for review. During the last weeks of the semester students will make presentations based on their term papers. In between and throughout, students will work on the term papers, with frequent and structured interaction with me, requiring the submission of different drafts of the term paper. Extensive office hours, during which students will come and discuss their work with me, form an important part of this course. Arrangements for booking office hours will be communicated in class. The detailed timetable is given at the end of this syllabus.

The following are the topics on which I propose to lecture. Each topic below is accompanied by one or two references which will give you a sense of my perspective on the area. Many other readings will be distributed in class as needed.

Please note that these topics do not limit areas for term papers. I have a broad range of interests and would be happy to discuss any other areas students would be interested in pursuing.

1. Globalization and Inequality

World Inequality Report. 2018. [Home | World Inequality Report 2018 \(wid.world\)](https://wid.world/)

Ravi Kanbur. 2019. "Inequality in a Global Perspective," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp 431-444, 2019.

2. Multidimensional Poverty

Alkire, S. and Foster, J. 2011. “Counting and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement.” *Journal of Public Economics*, Vol 95, pp 476-487.

Alkire, Sabina, José Manuel Roche and Ana Vaz . 2017. “Changes over time in multidimensional poverty: Methodology and results for 34 countries,” *World Development*, Vol. 94, pp. 232- 249.”

3. Spatial Disparities and Development

Luc Christiaensen and Ravi Kanbur (editors). 2018. Symposium on Secondary Towns and Poverty Reduction, *World Development*, [World Development | Symposium on Secondary Towns and Poverty Reduction | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier](#)

Ravi Kanbur, Yue Wang and Xiaobo Zhang. 2021. “The Great Chinese Inequality Turnaround,” *Journal of Comparative Economics*, Vol. 49, Issue 2, pp. 467-482. [The great Chinese inequality turnaround - ScienceDirect](#)

4. Targeting Expenditures for Poverty Reduction

Ravi Kanbur. 2010. “Macro Crises and Targeting Transfers to the Poor,” in Michael Spence and Danny Leipziger (Editors), *Globalization and Growth: Implications for a Post-Crisis World*, The World Bank for the Commission on Growth and Development, pp. 109-122.

Ghatak, Maitreesh and Francois Maniquet. 2019. “Universal Basic Income Proposal - Some Theoretical Aspects.”. *Annual Review of Economics*, Vol. 11, pp 895–928, 2019.

5. Informality

Ravi Kanbur. 2021. “The Long Discourse on Informality as Reflected in Selected Articles of the International Labour Review”, Centenary Issue No. 1, pp. 1-11, *International Labour Review*, 2021. [International Labour Review](#), Centenary Collection (2021), No. 1: [Introduction: The long discourse on informality as reflected in selected articles of the International Labour Review](#) (ilo.org)

Gabriel Ulyssea. 2018. “Firms, Informality, and Development: Theory and Evidence from Brazil.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 108, No. 8, pp 2015-47.

6. Global Public Goods and International Development Agencies

Thomas O’Brien and Ravi Kanbur. 2014. “The Operational Dimensions of Results-Based Financing”. *Public Administration and Development*, Volume 34, pp 345-358.

Marc Fleurbaey and Ravi Kanbur. 2019. [Social Progress and Global Governance | Global Summitry | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

The Time Table for the semester is as follows.

- 1/26 Office Hours 8am-6pm
- 1/27 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Lecture 7pm-9.30pm

- 2/2 Office Hours 8am-6pm
- 2/3 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Lecture 7pm-9.30pm

- 2/7 Deadline for submission of 1 page outline

- 2/9 Office Hours 8am-6pm
- 2/10 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Lecture 7pm-9.30pm

- 2/16 Office Hours 8am-6pm
- 2/17 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Lecture 7pm-9.30pm

- 2/21 Deadline for submission of 5 page outline

- 2/23 Office Hours 8am-6pm
- 2/24 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Lecture 7pm-9.30pm

- 3/2 Office Hours 8am-6pm
- 3/3 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Lecture 7pm-9.30pm

- 3/7 Deadline for submission of 10 page outline

- 3/9 Office Hours 8am-8pm
- 3/10 Office Hours 8am-8pm

- 3/16 Office Hours 8am-8pm
- 3/17 Office Hours 8am-8pm

- 3/23 Office Hours 8am-8pm
- 3/24 Office Hours 8am-8pm

- 3/28 Deadline for submission of 25 page draft

- 3/30 Office Hours 8am-8pm
- 3/31 Office Hours 8am-8pm

- 4/6 Spring Break
- 4/7 Spring Break

- 4/13 Office Hours 8am-8pm
- 4/14 Office Hours 8am-8pm

4/18 Deadline for submission of 40 page draft

4/20 Office Hours 8am-6pm

4/21 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Class Presentations 7pm-9.30pm

4/27 Office Hours 8am-6pm

4/28 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Class Presentations 7pm-9.30pm

5/4 Office Hours 8am-6pm

5/5 Office Hours 8am-6pm; Class Presentations 7pm-9.30pm

5/9 6pm. DEADLINE FOR FINAL SUBMISSION OF TERM PAPER. NO EXCEPTIONS. HALF GRADE PENALTY FOR EACH DAY OF DELAY.