

HU 407: Wealth and Poverty of Nation- Indian economic development

Contact Hours- 04 (per week)

Examination Duration- 03

Credits- 04 (4-0-0)

Objective: The course begins with a discussion of alternative conceptions of development and their justification. It then proceeds to aggregate models of growth and cross-national comparisons of the growth experience that can help evaluate these models. The axiomatic basis for inequality measurement is used to develop measures of inequality and connections between growth and inequality are explored. The course ends by discussing the role of the state in economic development and the informational and incentive problems that affect state governance.

Course Outline

Unit I: Conceptions of Development

Alternative measures of development, documenting the international variation in these measures, comparing development trajectories across nations and within them.

Unit II: Demography and Development

Demographic concepts; birth and death rates, age structure, fertility and mortality; demographic transitions during the process of development; gender bias in preferences and outcomes and evidence on unequal treatment within households; connections between income, mortality, fertility choices and human capital accumulation; migration.

Unit III: Poverty and Inequality: Definitions, Measures and Mechanisms

Inequality axioms; a comparison of commonly used inequality measures; connections between inequality and development; poverty measurement; characteristics of the poor; mechanisms that generate poverty traps and path dependence of growth processes.

Unit IV: Environment and Sustainable Development

Defining sustainability for renewable resources; a brief history of environmental change; common-pool resources; environmental externalities and state regulation of the environment; economic activity and climate change.

Readings

1. Debraj Ray, *Development Economics*, Oxford University Press, 2009.
2. Partha Dasgupta, *Economics, A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2007.
3. Abhijit Banerjee, Roland Benabou and Dilip Mookerjee, *Understanding Poverty*, Oxford University Press, 2006.
4. Kaushik Basu, *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, OUP, 2007.
5. Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, OUP, 2000.
6. Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press, 2006.
7. Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*