

ECO-943 Advanced Topics on Poverty and Manpower Planning

Course Description

The objective is to study socioeconomic factors that contribute to urban, rural and international poverty. Emphasis is placed on measures of poverty, economics and politics of income distribution, occupational structure of the labor force, and factors that maintain poverty. The course mainly aims at giving hands on experience on calculating and analyzing these areas with the help of computer soft wares and analytical tools. Additionally, various policies of government and international institutions on poverty reduction and eradication will be analyzed.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course, students should be able to understand

- How poverty is measured economically, religiously, and philosophically
- Does microcredit lead to long-term alleviation of poverty for the poor
- What are the economic and non-economic causes of poverty? Low wages? Minimum wage laws? Low skills level? Lack of land and capital? Individual attributes? A culture of poverty? Laziness? Lack of intelligence? Oppressive institutional forces (the church, the government, political leadership)? Charity and philanthropy that diminish incentive?

Recommended Books

Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Understanding Poverty. Harvard University Press/Russell Sage Foundation. 2001

Hilary W. Hoynes, Marianne E. Page, and Ann H. Stevens, 2005. "Poverty in America: Trends and Explanations."

Ron Haskins and Cecelia Rouse. "Closing Achievement Gaps." Policy Brief, The Future Of Children, Princeton-Brookings

Bruce Western. 2006. Punishment and Inequality in America