EC4041 Development Economics – Module A

Lecturer: Dr Gaia Narciso

Course Description

This course builds on the JS Economics of Less Developed Countries. It provides an opportunity for students to pursue more in-depth study of particular topics in development economics. The course will be taught in two modules.

The first part of this module will analyze, both theoretically and empirically, the functioning of informal markets in developing countries, with a particular focus on the land, credit and insurance sectors. By means of a microeconomic approach, we will explore the impact of social norms on economic outcomes. The second part of this module will adopt a more macroeconomic approach and it will focus on the economic causes of civil war.

Primary Texts


Pranab Bardhan and Christopher Udry (1999), Development Microeconomics, Oxford University Press

Assessments

The overall grade for the course is based on the end-of-year examination (70%) plus two pieces of project work to be handed in during the year (30%).

The project for this module will consist in a critical report on a paper chosen from the reading list. The report will provide a critical analysis of the paper, discussing links to the literature presented in class and proposing possible extensions. The report will account for 15% of the overall grade.

The deadline for the submission of the project will be 12 pm, Friday, 16th January 2009. Late submissions will incur a penalty.

Contact Information

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Reading list

1. Household Economics

Bardhan and Udry, Chapter 2


2. Credit

Ray, Chapter 14
Bardhan and Udry, Chapter 7

"Gine, Xavier, Jakiela, Pamela, Karlan, Dean S. and Morduch, Jonathan, Microfinance Games(June 2006). Yale University Economic Growth Center Discussion Paper No. 936


3. Insurance

Ray, Chapter 15


4. Land

Ray, Chapter 12

Bardhan and Udry, Chapter 6


5. Civil War


