Masters Course
Topics in Development
SUMMER SEMESTER 2018

Instructor: Dr. Rajesh Ramachandran
Time and Location: Check LSF for room and days
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Office Hours: By appointment

Overview and Objectives
The course explores the process of economic and social development around the world. The course though primarily relies on literature from the field of economics, it will however also draw on research from the fields of anthropology, development studies and political science. The course is divided into two primary parts and is intended to introduce the participants to a wide range of micro and macro perspectives on the process of economic development ranging from the role of institutions, geography, human capital and culture to the micro processes underlying human capital formation. The first part takes a long run view to understanding the macro processes that help explain the current level of cross country income differences. The second part of the course will take a more micro perspective on identifying the impact of social and economic policies, with a special emphasis on education and health. A brief listing of the main topics and some of the associated readings to be covered is provided below:

Course Outline

2. The rise of Europe

- Pollock, Sheldon. *The language of the gods in the world of men: Sanskrit, culture, and power in premodern India*. University of California Press, 2006. (Ch. 11 Europe Vernacularized)

3. Some debates on the role of geography, human capital and institutions in comparative development

- Diamond, Jared M. *Guns, germs and steel: a short history of everybody for the last 13,000 years*. Random House, 1998. (Ch. 4 Farmer Power)

4. Power games and institutions: The role of external actors


5. Ethnicity


6. Culture


7. Education


8. Health


9. The Indian enigma: Why are Indian children so short?


10. African development: Putting some pieces together

- The last session will synthesize the material covered in the other modules to try and understand the historical pathways and the way forward for African development. Readings to be announced later.

**Course Evaluation**

The evaluation will be based on a combination of (1) class presentations to be held during the mid term, (2) final term paper; and (3) class or take home examination. More details will follow.