

## **World Poverty: Analysis and Policy**

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Please use the subject heading 'SIPA World Poverty Course' to ensure a reply.

Office Hours: Mondays 2-330 p.m.

### **Course Description:**

What is poverty? How many poor people are there in the world and where do they live? What are the underlying causes of widespread poverty? How can world poverty best be reduced? Who should be held responsible for undertaking actions to reduce world poverty? This course employs economic, philosophical, and social analysis to shed light on these questions.

### **Course Requirements:**

The requirements for the course consist of: (i) a 20-25 page (double-spaced, page limit strictly enforced) final research paper (60 percent of course grade), and (ii) active and informed class participation (40 percent of course grade). It is implicit that attendance is essential. Students must submit a one-page proposal containing a preliminary description of a research question and a proposed plan of activities to attempt to answer this research question, by the end of the fifth week of class (Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>). The proposal must be approved by the instructor. The papers should be submitted to the instructor *both* by email and in hard copy form. The final paper will be due on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> unless alternative arrangements are made with the instructor.

There is no formal prerequisite for the course. No specific technical background is required. However, the course will include some technical elements. Familiarity with economic analysis will be helpful. Students should possess a demonstrable prior interest in development issues and some exposure to principles of economics (ideally at the undergraduate intermediate level).

### **Reading:**

Readings are available on the internet, or on the course website (available via Courseworks). There are no other required texts.

Readings that are required may be made recommended or vice versa, to take advantage of the small size of the class and to accommodate class interests and other considerations. If such amendments are made, they will be announced in class.

### **Course Structure:**

The following schedule is merely indicative. It may be adjusted to take advantage of the availability of guest lecturers, or for other reasons. It is the responsibility of students to follow the progress of the class and to adjust their reading accordingly.

### **(A) THE SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE:**

#### **Class 1:**

Kozol, J. (1995), *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*, selection on course website.

Narayan, D. et al (2000), *Voices of the Poor* (especially chapter 1 and conclusions in the volume *Can Anyone Hear Us?*, and chapters 1, 2 and 11 in the volume *Crying Out for Change*) available on <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices/reports.htm>

Orwell, G. (1933), *Down and Out in Paris and London*, skim on-line version available on [http://www.george-orwell.org/Down\\_and\\_Out\\_in\\_Paris\\_and\\_London/0.html](http://www.george-orwell.org/Down_and_Out_in_Paris_and_London/0.html).

Sainath, P. (1996), *Everybody Loves a Good Drought: Stories from India's Poorest Districts*, selection available on course website.

#### *Recommended:*

Salgado, Sebastiao (1993), *Workers: An Archeology of the Industrial Age*.

Salgado, Sebastiao (2000), *Migrations: Humanity in Transition*.

See also:

<http://www.pdnonline.com/legends/legends10/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/specials/salgado/home/>

Seabrook, J. (1996), *Cities of the South*.

Viramma et al (1997), *Viramma: Life of an Untouchable*

Dumont, L. (1970), *Homo Hierarchicus*

## **(B) CONCEPTUALIZATION AND MEASUREMENT**

### **Class 2: Normative Foundations**

Cohen, J. (1988), "Why Do Workers take Hazardous Jobs?", available on course website.

Parfit, D. (2001), "Equality or Priority?", available on course website.

Sen, Amartya, "Poor, Relatively Speaking", available on course website.

Sen, Amartya (1981), *Poverty and Famines*, selection available on course website.

Sen, Amartya (1989) "Development as Capability Expansion", in Fukuda-Parr and Shiva Kumar ed., *Readings in Human Development*, available on course website.

### **Class 3: Measurement Tools**

Anand, S. and A. Sen (1997), "Concepts of Human Development and Poverty: A Multidimensional Perspective", in *Readings in Human Development*, ed. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and A.K. Shiva Kumar.

Ray, D. (2000), *Development Economics*, selection available on course website.

UNDP, Human Development Report (2003), Technical Note 1, available on

[http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/pdf/hdr03\\_backmatter\\_2.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/pdf/hdr03_backmatter_2.pdf)

Pattanaik, P., S. Reddy and Y.Xu (2007), "On Procedures for Measuring Deprivation and Living Standards of Societies in a Multi-Attribute Framework", available on [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1081226](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1081226)

Foster, J. and S. Alkire (2007), "Counting and Multi-Dimensional Poverty Measurement", available on [http://www.ophi.org.uk/pubs/Alkire\\_Foster\\_CountingMultidimensionalPoverty.pdf](http://www.ophi.org.uk/pubs/Alkire_Foster_CountingMultidimensionalPoverty.pdf)

Bourguignon, F. and Chakrvarthy, S. (2003), "The Measurement of Multi-Dimensional Poverty", available on <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPA/Resources/429966-1092778639630/bourguignon.pdf>

### **Individual Countries:**

#### **Class 4: China and India**

Chen, S. and M. Ravallion (2007), "China's (Uneven) Progress Against Poverty", *Journal of Development Economics*, available on course website.

Sanjay G. Reddy & Camelia Minoiu, 2005. "Chinese Poverty: Assessing the Impact of Alternative Assumptions," available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

Sanjay G. Reddy, 2007, "Death in China", *New Left Review*, available on course website.

Deaton, A. and J. Dreze (2002), "Poverty and Inequality in India: A Reexamination", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002, available at: [http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton\\_dreze\\_poverty\\_india.pdf](http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton_dreze_poverty_india.pdf)

Deaton, A. and V. Kozel (2005), "Data and Dogma: the Great Indian Poverty Debate", *World Bank Research Observer*, Vol. 20 No. 2, available at: [http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton\\_kozel\\_datadogma.pdf](http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton_kozel_datadogma.pdf)

Lanjouw, P. and N. Stern, *Economic Development in Palanpur Over Five Decades*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998, chapter 4, "Poverty in Palanpur", available at:

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/economicsfinance/0198288328/toc.html>

Reddy, S. (2006), “[Indian] Poverty Estimates: How Great is the Debate?”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, available on course website.

## **The World:**

### **Class 5: Critique**

Chen, Shaohua and M. Ravallion (2000), “How Did the World’s Poorest Fare in the 1990s?” available at <http://econ.worldbank.org/docs/1164.pdf>

Deaton, A. (2003), “How to Monitor Poverty for the Millennium Development Goals”, *Journal of Human Development*, Vol. 4 no. 3, available on [http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton\\_poverty\\_mdg.pdf](http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton_poverty_mdg.pdf)

Pogge, T. and S. Reddy (2002), “Unknown: The Extent Distribution and Trend of Global Income Poverty”, available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

Reddy, S. and T. Pogge (2005), “How *Not* to Count the Poor”, available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

Reddy, S. “Counting the Poor: The Truth about World Poverty Statistics”, available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

“\$1 per day: How Much Does It Say?”, *In Focus*, International Poverty Centre, Brasilia, 2005, set of articles by different authors, available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

Satterthwaite, D. (2005), “The Underestimation of Urban Poverty in Low and Middle Income Nations”, available on <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdf/full/9322IIED.pdf>

### **Class 6: Assessment and Alternatives**

Gordon, D. et al (2003), *Child Poverty in the Developing World*, Bristol: The Policy Press, selection available on course website.

Reddy, S. and C. Minoiu (2005), "Has World Poverty Really Fallen During the 1990s?", available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

Reddy, S., S. Visaria and M. Asali (2005), "Capability Based Inter-country Poverty Comparisons", available on [www.socialanalysis.org](http://www.socialanalysis.org)

## **(C) POVERTY DYNAMICS**

### **Class 7: Politics and Poverty**

Atkinson, A.B. (1996), "Promise and Performance: Why We Need an official Poverty Report", in Barker, P. ed., *Living as Equals*, available on course website.

Pogge, T. (2005), "The First Millennium Development Goal: A Cause for Celebration?" available on [www.millenniumdevelopmentgoals.org](http://www.millenniumdevelopmentgoals.org)

Ramachandran, V.K. (1998), "On Kerala's Development Achievements", in Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, eds. *Indian development: selected regional perspectives*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. pp. 205-356, available on course website.

Sen, A., *Development as Freedom*, selection, available on course website.

Sen, A. (1996) "Social Commitment and Democracy: The Demands of Equity and Financial Conservatism", in Barker, P. ed., *Living as Equals*, available on course website.

### **Class 8: Bargaining and Discrimination**

Agarwal, B. (2002), "Are We Not Peasants Too? Land Rights and Women's Claims in India", available on <http://www.popcouncil.org/publications/seeds/seeds21.pdf>

Borjas, J. (2000), "Labor Market Discrimination", selection available on course website.

Deaton, A. (2003), "[Health, Inequality, and Economic Development](#)" *Journal of Economic Literature*, March 2003, v. 41, iss. 1, pp 113-158, available on: [http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton\\_health\\_inequality\\_economic.pdf](http://www.wws.princeton.edu/rpds/downloads/deaton_health_inequality_economic.pdf)

Munshi, K. and M. Rosenzweig, "Traditional Institutions Meet the Modern World: Caste, Gender and Schooling Choice in a Globalizing Economy", available on [http://www.econ.brown.edu/fac/Kaivan\\_Munshi/bombay12.pdf](http://www.econ.brown.edu/fac/Kaivan_Munshi/bombay12.pdf)

Sen, Amartya (1990), "Gender and Cooperative Conflict", selection available on course website.

### **Class 9: Poverty Traps**

Dasgupta, P. (1996), *An Inquiry into Well-Being and Destitution*, selection available on course website.

Leibenstein, H. (1957), *Economic Backwardness and Economic Growth*, selection available on course website.

Ray, D. (1998), *Development Economics*, selection available on course works.

Sachs, J. *The End of Poverty*, selection available on course website.

Sachs, J. et al (2004), "Ending Africa's Poverty Trap", *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 1; 2004, available on <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/BPEAEndingAfricasPovertyTrapFINAL.pdf>

## **(D) WHAT IS TO BE DONE?**

### **Class 10: Growth – its Power and its Limits:**

Dreze, J. and A. Sen (1989), *Hunger and Public Action*, selection available on course website.

Ravallion M. and G. Datt (1999), "When is growth pro-poor? Evidence from the diverse experiences of India's states?", available at <http://econ.worldbank.org/docs/1016.pdf> .

### **Class 11:**

## **The Role of Institutions and Public Action:**

Reddy, S. (2005), "Safety Nets for the Poor: A Missing International Dimension?" available on course website.

Reddy, S. and A. Heuty (2005) "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: What's Wrong with Existing Analytical Models?" available on [www.millenniumdevelopmentgoals.org](http://www.millenniumdevelopmentgoals.org)

Reddy, S. and A. Heuty, "Peer and Partner Review: A Practical Approach to Achieving the MDGs", available on [www.millenniumdevelopmentgoals.org](http://www.millenniumdevelopmentgoals.org)

Sachs, J. et al (2005), *Investing in Development: A Practical plan to Achieve the MDGs*, (Overview Report), available on [http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/index\\_overview.htm](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/index_overview.htm)

Sen, A. (1981), *Poverty and Famines*, selection available on course website.

Sen, A. (1995), "The Political Economy of Targeting" available on course website.

## **Class 12: Proposals, Prospects and Dilemmas:**

Pogge, T. (2002), *World Poverty and Human Rights*, selection available on course website.

Suplicy, E. (2002), "Legitimizing Basic Income in Developing Countries: Brazil, or The Answer is Blowin' in the Wind", available on <http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/BIEN/Files/Papers/2002Suplicy.pdf>

Van Parijs, P. (2000) "A Basic Income for All", available on <http://www.bostonreview.net/BR25.5/vanparijs.html>