1. Course Description

There are vast differences in levels of income and output between what are called economically developed and less-developed countries of the world. Most of the world’s poor live in the less-developed countries, although poverty also exists in the developed countries. This course examines the causes and consequences of world poverty and inequality across nations and discusses possible ways of reducing such poverty and inequality.

Focusing on countries, it examines the extent of world poverty and inequality, and studies trends in them. It examines why world poverty and inequality persists, focusing mainly on factors involving interactions between rich and poor countries (such as international trade, international capital flows and technology transfers) and the consequences of globalization. It explores why people all over the world should be concerned about these problems and what can be done to deal with the problems.

2. Prerequisites

You are required to have already taken a principles or introductory courses in economics and statistics; intermediate courses in micro and macroeconomics, and econometrics, also provide useful background. Some of the material covered will be more sophisticated in nature, but I will cover the material required to prepare students for that material.

3. Course plan

For the first couple of days I will provide a brief overview of the material covered in the syllabus and reading list. After that you will be asked to select two topics of their choice on which you will write papers and make in-class presentations and lead discussions. You can formally select topics after discussing it with the instructor and sending an email to confirm. All students are required to participate in discussions on each topic. The final version of one paper is due on or before October 13 (the Monday before the midsemester break) and the other on or before December 10 (the last day of class). The recommended length of each paper is 14 to 16 pages (including notes and references). You are required to turn in an outline and at least one draft of each paper before submitting the final versions, the draft at least two weeks before the due date of the paper and the draft one week before.

We will try to follow this schedule, although deviations may well occur. Please check my website for revised versions of the schedule and this syllabus as the semester progresses.
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4. Grading

The grading will be based on the following:

45 % on the first paper.
45 % on the second paper.
10 % on presentations and class participation.

5. Syllabus and Reading List

Don’t be too concerned about the length of the reading list. You don’t have to read all of it unless you really want to. I will mention the key readings for each class meeting ahead of time. Several
of the key readings are available on electronic reserve (and marked with **); many others (books) are available on regular reserve (marked with *).

**General Readings:**


**Syllabus**

1. **World Poverty**


2. **Inequality Across Nations**


3. **Why world poverty and inequality matter**


**4. Growth, development and underdevelopment**


Chang, Ha-Joon (2008). *The Bad Samaritans*, Chaps. 5, 8, 9

**5. Globalization and inequality**


Chang, Ha-Joon (2008), *The Bad Samaritans*, Chap. 1


**6. Trade and inequality**


7. Factor movements and inequality


8. Technology transfers and convergence?


9. Environmental and social factors


10. Political economy and international institutions


11. What is to be done?

In addition to some of the material already referred to:

