A. Description of Course

The objective of this intense course is to offer in-depth understanding of issues related to poverty in developing countries. In discussions on the roles of governments, international agencies, donors, NGOs and private institutions, emphasis will be on developmental strategies and approaches to poverty alleviation. Study of social entrepreneurship and private sector participation will receive special attention. Theoretical classroom presentations will be supplemented with case studies to gain a clear understanding of challenges, obstacles, constraints and solutions.

B. Grading

Grading will be based on class participation and case study reports. Attendance and assignments are viewable through Blackboard.

1. Class Participation - 40% of final grade:
   Each class will consist of delivery of lecture by the Professor
   a) Active participation
      i) Individual and group discussions
      ii) Critical thinking
   b) Presentations delivered by students

2. Case Study Reports - 60% of final grade:
   a) Case Study Report 1 – must be submitted by the end of October (30%)
   b) Case Study Report 2 – must be submitted 1 week prior to the end of the semester (30%)
C. Course Expectations

Emphasis on participating in class discussions, case studies and delivery of factual data on the topic of Global Poverty Alleviation will enable the students to be sensitized to the complexities of poverty and its solutions. Students will become familiar with the different dimensions of poverty, such as income generation, healthcare, education and delivery of services. This course will prepare the student with the required background to pursue careers in the developmental arena.

D. Prerequisites

Minimal background in macro-economic theory and public policy

E. Topics

1. Overview on Global Poverty

   a) How is poverty defined?
   b) Global statistics on poverty levels
   c) Why does poverty exist? – Issues of governance, resources, social conditions, etc.
   d) Trends in wealth creation and poverty


2. Developmental Goals

   a) National goals and priorities
   b) Goals set by international agencies
   c) Millennium goals

   - The World Bank, Voices of the Poor
3. Poverty Strategies

a) Sustainable development
b) Target-based strategies
c) Technology driven strategies

- Foster, Andrew & Rosenzweig, Mark, ‘Learning by Doing and Learning from Others: Human Capital and Technical Change in Agriculture,’ *Journal of Political Economy* 103 (6), 1176-209.


4. Poverty alleviation approaches and considerations

a) Top-down approach (governments and international agencies)
b) Bottom-up approach (grass-root interventions by NGOs)
c) Specific interventions (HIV/AIDS, etc.)
d) Social entrepreneurship

e) Issues of sustainability, scalability, cost effectiveness, and other considerations

f) Myths and realities


**Microfinance:**


5. **Three dimensions of poverty reduction strategy**

   a) *Delivery of services – education, vocational training, healthcare, support services*
   
   b) *Community development – infrastructure, water, sanitation, housing*
   
   c) *Wealth and income generation – economic activity and job creation, small scale local businesses*


• Ray, Debraj, ‘chapter 8 - Poverty and under-nutrition,’ *Development Economics*.

6. How do the following players function?
   a) Government at various levels
   b) International agencies
   c) Donors
   d) NGOs
   e) Social entrepreneurs
   f) Private sector

7. Financing poverty projects
   a) Government budgets for various services – by country comparison
   b) Foreign aid
   c) Donor contributions
   d) NGO operations


8. Impact analysis

a) Examine 2-3 project reports of WB or other published results
b) Cost-benefit analysis based on available data on government projects
c) Are the present approaches bringing down poverty fast enough?

9. Participation of the private sector

a) Types of private sector involvement – philanthropy versus business
b) Social entrepreneurship activities
c) Development versus profit-motive
d) Concerns, expectations and safeguards
e) Creating incentives for private sector involvement
f) Developmental impact from private sector participation


- Easterly, William, 2006, ‘Chapter 5: The Rich have Markets, the Poor have Bureaucrats,’ *The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*, Penguin Press.


10. Case studies

Two poverty scenarios (described for 2 different countries) will be available on Blackboard for the students. The students will be asked to analyze each situation, develop goals and implementation approaches, and estimate their costs.

F. Reading List: Books