Course title: Development Economics
Academic year: 2021-2022
Second semester
Professors:
- Milovich, Juliana – juliana-vael.milovich@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr
- Belén Villegas – bvillegaspla@gmail.com
- Invited professor: Elena Villar – elena.villar@unicatt.it
Tuesday: 14h00-17h00 (Room 17)
Course language: English and Spanish

Timetable of the lectures (provisional)

1st February: Lecture 1 (Juliana Milovich)
8th February: Lecture 2 (Juliana Milovich)
15th February: Lecture 3 (Belén Villegas)
22nd February: Lecture 4 (Belén Villegas)
1st March: no lecture
8th March: Lecture 5 (Juliana Milovich and Belén Villegas)
15th March: Lecture 6 (Elena Villar)
22nd March: Lecture 7 (Juliana Milovich)
29th March: Lecture 8 (Belén Villegas)

Course description – Aims of the course

In this course, you will learn from different dimensions of development, such as poverty, gender, environment and agro-food system, and public policies, and how they apply to the context of Latin American and the Caribbean region. We will review recent empirical research that attempts to answer research questions related to these topics. The skills you would have acquired in quantitative techniques will prove to be very useful both in understanding these studies and in critically appraising them, so that you can assess the credibility of their findings. These topics are only a few selected from a large sample and they aim to introduce you to development issues, promote critical thinking and stimulate you to continue learning.

Evaluation
The final mark consists of two evaluations: mid-term (lecture 5) and final:

1) Mid-term evaluation (50%): group presentation based on general questions about the course contents, e.g.: why poverty should be analysed from a multidimensional perspective? Why is it necessary to incorporate a gender perspective in development?

2) Final assignment (50%): students will be given a set of case studies on Latin America, and they will have to choose the one that best suits their interests. They will have to analyse the case study from one or several development dimensions presented throughout the course. Some guiding questions will be given to structure the work.

Course workload and structure:

Students should read the required readings before each lesson and actively participate in class discussions.

Course content will be made available on iCampus, along with a forum to share questions and course-related interests.

Contents of the course: the course will be structured around 4 dimensions of development

**Dimensions of poverty:**
- Lecture 1: How to define and measure poverty?
- Lecture 2: Multidimensional poverty analysis and case studies in Latin America

**Gender dimension:**
- Lecture 3: The feminist view of development. What is feminist economics?
- Lecture 4: Feminist economics: main concepts and approaches
- Lecture 5: Mid-term evaluation, group presentations

**Environmental and agro-food system dimension:**
- Lecture 6: A picture of solid waste management in developing countries
- Lecture 7: Social impact of agro-export production in Guatemala

**Dimension on Public development policies**
- Lecture 8: Care policies in Latin America

Lecture 1: How to define and measure poverty?

**Content:** In the first part of the session, we will introduce the different motivations of measuring poverty other than from a monetary perspective and we will learn the Alkire-Foster Method to measure multidimensional poverty. In the second part of the lecture, we will do a group activity about the Chapter 2 of the first reference below, where you will be placed in groups and will discuss about the following two questions:

- How would you define poverty?
- What policies and strategies would contribute to reducing poverty as previously defined?

Your group will present your observations, and then we will spend time discussing each group's responses.

References:


Lecture 2: Multidimensional poverty analysis and case studies in Latin America

Content: In this lecture we will learn how the Alkire-Foster Method can be used for policy, how to disaggregate the multidimensional poverty index by subgroup and how to decompose it by indicators and dimensions. We will also learn case studies from around the world. In the second part of the lecture, we will do a group activity where you will discuss about a potential measure of multidimensional poverty for a specific given country.

References:


Lecture 3: The feminist view of development. What is feminist economics?

Content: In this session, the feminist perspective on development processes will be presented. The first part of the session will introduce some crucial concepts about feminist theory. The second part will focus on explaining specifically the object of study of feminist economics. In this way, some key notions in macro and microeconomics will be presented from a feminist perspective.
References:


Lecture 4: Feminist economics: main concepts and approaches

Content: This session exposes the feminist perspective on the processes of production and reproduction, and the role of the care economy in the sustainability of economies and life. In particular, the economic, social and gender effects of the Care Economy on the development will be developed in this session, with a special focus on Latin America. In this regard, the main concepts and premises that characterise feminist economics will be exposed, such as the sexual division of labour, paid and unpaid work, and the social and gendered organisation of care. Finally, some of the effects of the current crisis triggered by the covid-19 pandemic on gender inequalities will be explored.

References:


Lecture 5: mid-term evaluation - group presentation

**Content:** During this session, we will hold the group presentation based on general questions about the course contents.

Lecture 6: A picture of solid waste management in developing countries

**Content:** The world generates more than 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste each year. These are expected to increase by 40% within 30 years if no improvements are made in this sector, with a huge impact on global greenhouse emissions.

In this class, we will explore the environmental, health and prosperity impacts of waste production, disposal, collection, and management in developing countries.

**References:**


Lecture 7: Social impact of agro-export production in Guatemala

**Content:** This lecture will focus on understanding and quantifying how the current agricultural production model of the most populous country in Central America, Guatemala, contributes to increasing one of the most persistent social deprivations in the country: the child malnutrition.

**References:** TBC

Lecture 8: Care policies in Latin America

**Content:** This session develops the importance of the care economy in Latin America. It will be exposed the main measures that Latin American countries are carrying out in the creation of care policies, especially in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay.

**References:**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios (LC/CRM.14/3), Santiago, 2019