I. Catalog Description

EC 437  Economics of Poverty and Discrimination (4)

The scope and nature of poverty and discrimination in the U.S. Economic sources of changes in, and attempts at alleviation of poverty and discrimination. Analysis of poverty programs and anti-discriminatory public policies. 4 lecture/presentations. Prerequisites: EC 201 or EC 202.

II. Required Background or Experience

EC 201 or Ec 202.

III. Expected Outcomes

Students in EC 437 will:

a) define and describe the nature and scope of poverty and discrimination in the U.S.,

b) use economic reasoning to analyze the extent of poverty and discrimination,

c) summarize the causes of poverty and discrimination,

d) examine public policy options aimed at eliminating poverty,

e) explore the historical background and evolution of social welfare programs in the U.S., and

f) determine the links between poverty and macroeconomics.

IV. Text and Readings

Texts:

Readings:


V. **Minimum Student Materials**

Textbooks, notebooks, and access to library materials and computer resources.

VI. **Minimum College Facilities**

Classroom for lecture/discussions that is equipped for audio-visual and computer usage.

VII. **Course Outline**

A. **The Scope and Nature of Poverty**
   1. How is Poverty Measured?
   2. Who Are the Poor?
   3. How Many are Poor?
   4. Economic Dynamics of Poverty

B. **The Causes of Poverty**
   1. Major Theories on the Causes of Poverty -- Myth or Reality?
   2. The Labor Market
   3. Discrimination
   4. The Feminization of Poverty
5. The Elderly

6. Health and Education

7. Demographic Forces and Immigration

C. Policy Options

1. Income Maintenance Policies

2. Employment and Educational Policies

3. Macroeconomic Policy Options

VIII. Instructional Methods

Lecture/discussions with active student involvement. Class discussions focus on the text reading assignments. Students will be required to lead class discussions on designated, assigned readings moderated by the instructor.

IX. Evaluation of Outcomes

Grades will be a function of essay exams, class participation including leading specified discussions, and a term paper analyzing a public policy issue related to poverty and discrimination. The term paper must describe the proposed program or legislation and include economic analysis and relevant empirical work in their papers.