

Population, environment & governance (ECONM821)

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Year : 2014/15

Credits : 5 ECTS

Learning outcomes

The course has three main objectives. The first is to introduce students to the application of several research methods used in economics to analyze issues in population and environmental economics. In particular, a special session will be devoted to survey and questionnaire design. The second objective is to provide a critical review of some important policy questions, by addressing the methodological challenges they imply. The third objective is to familiarize the students with the content of what is known in these fields.

Content

The theme of population will be analyzed along the following themes

1. Historical review of the main trends in population
2. The consequences of population growth
3. Is a large population sustainable?
4. Children as benefits
5. A theory of child labor
6. Children as costs
7. Optimal population theories

The theme on the environment will be addressed partly within the population debate. Afterwards, we will overview two major themes:

1. Deforestation in the Himalayas
2. Property rights and common property resources
3. The analysis of climate change
4. The regulation of environmental damage: price versus quantity.

The theme on governance will be based on the collective reading of the chapter 'Governance and Development' from the Handbook of development economics.



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Teaching methods

Essentially formal lectures based on a detailed powerpoint. Some discussions of the issues are organized in the class, and the 'governance' class is based on a collective reading.

Evaluations

The exam does not require the students to reproduce factual information or formal analytical tools reviewed in the class. The exam is organized around a critical discussion of a particular question for which the main material has been given in the class. This is a closed book exam