

Course title: Poverty and Inequality
Course number: LA 1710
Credit: 1

Course outline

Why does poverty persist amidst economic development and prosperity? Why has economic inequality exacerbated with increasing affluence? To address these questions, this course will introduce students to key ideas, concepts and debates in the study of poverty and inequality. The course will focus on the measurement of poverty and inequality, and examine the relationship between poverty, inequality, growth and development, particularly in the context of globalization. It will approach inequality from the lens of well-being and justice, and draw on diverse country experiences to offer a comparative perspective to address the complexities of poverty and inequality.

Details of course syllabus

Topic	Essential Readings
Inequality	The Economy, 1.1-1.4 and Capstone 19
Poverty	Haughton and Khandker (2007), Chapters 1 and 3
Social Mobility	Krishna (2014)

Essential Reading

Core Economics Team (2017) *Core Economics Textbook*, Oxford University Press, relevant sections

Haughton, J., & Khandker, S. R. (2009). *Handbook on Poverty and Inequality*. World Bank Publications, relevant sections

Krishna, A. (2014). Examining the Structure of Opportunity and Social Mobility in India: Who becomes an Engineer? *Development and Change*. 45(1).

Suggested Reading

Atkinson, AB. (2015). *Inequality*. Harvard University Press.

Deaton, A. (2013). *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth and the Origins of Inequality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Distribution of topics and readings

1.
 - 1.1 Introduction to the course
 - 1.2 The Economy: 1.1 Income inequality
 - 1.3 The Economy: 1.2 Measuring income and living standards
 - 1.4 The Economy: 1.3 History's hockey stick: Growth income
 - 1.5 The Economy: 1.4 The permanent technological revolution

2.
 - 2.1 Measuring economic inequality (Lorenz Curve and Gini Coefficient)
3.
 - 3.1 The Economy: 19.1 Inequality across the world and over time
 - 3.2 The Economy: 19.2 Accidents of birth: Another lens to study income inequality
 - 3.3 The Economy: 19.3 What (if anything) is wrong with inequality
 - 3.4 The Economy: 19.4 How much inequality is too much (or too little)
4.
 - 4.1 The Economy: 19.5: Endowments, technology, and institutions
 - 4.2 The Economy: 19.6: Inequality, endowments and principal-agent relationships
 - 4.3 The Economy: 19.7: Putting the model to work: Explaining changes in inequality
 - 4.4 The Economy: 19.8: Predistribution
5.
 - 5.1 The Economy: 19.9: Explaining recent trends in inequality in market income
 - 5.2 The Economy: 19.10: Redistribution: Taxes and transfers
 - 5.3 The Economy: 19.11: Equality and economic performance
 - 5.4 The Economy: 19.12: Wrapping up
6.
 - 6.1 Haughton and Khandker 2007, Chapter 1: What is poverty, and why measure it?
7.
 - 7.1 Haughton and Khandker 2007, Chapter 3: Poverty lines
8.
 - 8.1 Wrapping up LA 1710

Grading and Evaluation

Component 1: Class participation and attendance (10%)

Component 2: Mid-term assignment: Quiz (40%)

This will be an online MCQ quiz to evaluate students' learning and knowledge of the course matter.

Component 3: End-term assignment: Essay (50%)

This component comprises an essay (word limit 2000); it will evaluate students' mastery of the course matter, and their ability to critically examine a topic under study.