

GLOBAL INEQUALITY

SPECIAL NEEDS

Important: if you have any special needs, please contact me. I will be happy to make arrangements, so you can follow this course.

DESCRIPTION

The course will discuss recent research on income inequality among persons in the world. We will look at empirical results and the theories used to explain them. The course combines Sociology, History and Political Economy.

REQUIREMENTS

The course has a light to medium reading load of 60-90 pages per week. My personal estimate is that students should allocate four to eight hours per week (two to three mornings) to keep up with the reading. More time may be needed for the assignments. Previous knowledge of history or statistics is not necessary.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Three papers. 1. (30% of final grade) to be due around half the course, 2. (30%) around the second third of the course and 3. (40%) by the end of the course. Exact dates and details of the assignments will be provided during the course. Papers can be written in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

E-GROUP

The course has an e-group. Most communication, including file deliveries for assignments, will use this e-group. Participation is anonymous, but required. To sign up for the group send an email to mmde+subscribe@googlegroups.com. You will receive a message asking for confirmation. The group will be deleted when the course ends. You can sign up with more than one email account. Additionally, the page can be accessed at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/mmde>

PLEASE...

Please organize your time to keep up with the readings. Some texts may require more time to read than the regular reading load of the course.

Please note that I cannot accept assignments past the due date.

Please note that there is an attendance minimum of 75% of the classes (you can miss 24% of them). You can check the legal requirement [here](#).

Please turn off all electronic equipment in the classroom, including smartphones, tablets, cameras, computers and recorders.

Please come to class five minutes before it begins.

SESSIONS

The readings for each class are below. There is a fairly large production in this field, so if you need additional literature, please contact me.

1 . Inequality between persons within countries (Milanovic, 2010), Chapter 1

Milanovic, B. (2010). *The Haves and the Have-Nots: A brief and idiosyncratic history of global inequality*. Basic books.

Instructions about Assignment 1.

2. Inequality between countries (Milanovic, 2010) , Chapter 2 and (Milanovic, 2016), Chapter 3

Milanovic, B. (2010). *The Haves and the Have-Nots: A brief and idiosyncratic history of global inequality*. Basic books.

Milanovic, B. (2016). *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press.

3. Inequality between persons in the world (Milanovic, 2010) , Chapter 3

Milanovic, B. (2010). *The Haves and the Have-Nots: A brief and idiosyncratic history of global inequality*. Basic books.

Assignment 1 due this week

4. Inequality: concepts, dimensions, evolution (Atkinson, 2015), chapter2 1 & 2

Atkinson, A. B. (2015). *Inequality: what can be done?*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Instructions about Assignment 2.

5. Inequality: causal explanations (Atkinson, 2015), chapter 3

Atkinson, A. B. (2015). *Inequality: what can be done?*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

6. Inequality: a synthesis of the debate in a special issue of Science (Special issue. 2014) .

Science (2014) The haves and have nots: the Science of inequality. Special issue. 2014. 783-867

- For our course the most important articles are those by *Angus Deaton; Miles Corak; Gilbert Chin & Elizabeth Culotta; Eliot Marshall; Mara Hvistendahl; Thomas Piketty & Emmanuel Saez; David Autor; Martin Ravallion; Anna Aizer & Janet Currie;*

Assignment 2 due this week

7. Top incomes: a summary of the main findings (Atkinson, Piketty, & Saez, 2011)

Atkinson, A. B., Piketty, T., & Saez, E. (2011). Top incomes in the long run of history. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 49, 3–71.

8. Reviews of the literature about the rich, (Medeiros & Souza, 2015) and (Keister, 2014)

Medeiros, M., & Souza, P. H. F. (2014). The rich, the affluent and the top incomes. *Current Sociology*, (0011392114551651), 1–26. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0011392114551651>

Keister, L. A. (2014). The One Percent. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 40(1). <http://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-070513-075314>

9. Piketty: on Capital in the 21st Century (Piketty, 2015a, 2015b)

Piketty, T. (2015). Putting Distribution Back at the Center of Economics: Reflections on Capital in the Twenty-First Century. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(1), 67–88. <http://doi.org/10.1257/jep.29.1.67>

Piketty, T. (2015). About Capital in the Twenty-First Century. *American Economic Review*, 105(5), 48–53. <http://doi.org/10.1257/aer.p20151060>

10. Global trends

The Elephant Graph, growth over time (Milanovic, 2016), chapter 1 and a review of the first estimates (Heshmati, 2006)

Milanovic, B. (2016). *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press.

Heshmati, A. (2006). The world distribution of income and income inequality: A review of the economics literature. *Journal of World-Systems Research*, 12(1), 61–107.

And, if you are interested, the classic paper, The World, from 1820 to 1992 (Bourguignon & Morrisson, 2002)

Bourguignon, F., & Morrisson, C. (2002). Inequality among world citizens: 1820-1992. *American Economic Review*, 92(4), 727–744.

11. Recent changes in inequality: an overview of facts, causes, consequences and policies

Three overviews, (Bourguignon, 2015) chapter 1, (Niño-Zarazúa, Roope, & Tarp, 2016) and (Hammar & Waldenström, 2017). If you want more technical and updated literature, replace the first text by (Bourguignon, 2017)

Bourguignon, F. (2015). *The globalization of inequality* (1st ed.). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Niño-Zarazúa, M., Roope, L., & Tarp, F. (2016). Global Inequality: Relatively Lower, Absolutely Higher. *Review of Income and Wealth*, n/a-n/a. <https://doi.org/10.1111/roiw.12240>

Hammar, O., & Waldenström, D. (2017). Global earnings inequality, 1970-2015.

Bourguignon, F. (2017). World changes in inequality: an overview of facts, causes, consequences and policies (BIS Working Papers No. 654). Bank for International Settlements. Retrieved from <https://ideas.repec.org/p/bis/biswps/654.html>

12. The role of major ruptures: is violence the great leveler? (Scheidel, 2017), parts 1 and 7.

Scheidel, W. (2017). *The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

13. The research agenda, (Boushey, DeLong, & Steinbaum, 2017), Chapter 13, by Emmanuel Saez

Boushey, H., DeLong, J. B., & Steinbaum, M. (2017). *After Piketty: The Agenda for Economics and Inequality*. Harvard University Press.

14. Assignment 3

Assignment 3: date to be announced

REFERENCES

Atkinson, A. B. (2015). *Inequality: what can be done?* (1st ed.). Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Atkinson, A. B., Piketty, T., & Saez, E. (2011). Top incomes in the long run of history. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 49, 3–71.

Bourguignon, F. (2015). *The globalization of inequality* (1st ed.). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Bourguignon, F. (2017). *World changes in inequality: an overview of facts, causes, consequences and policies* (BIS Working Papers No. 654). Bank for International Settlements. Retrieved from <https://ideas.repec.org/p/bis/biswps/654.html>

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Hammar, O., & Waldenström, D. (2017). Global earnings inequality, 1970-2015. *IZA Discussion Papers*.

Heshmati, A. (2006). The world distribution of income and income inequality: A review of the economics literature. *Journal of World-Systems Research*, 12(1), 61–107.

Keister, L. A. (2014). The One Percent. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 40(1). <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-070513-075314>

Medeiros, M., & Souza, P. H. G. F. (2015). The rich, the affluent and the top incomes. *Current Sociology*, 63(6), 869–895. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392114551651>

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- Milanovic, B. (2016). *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press.
- Niño-Zarazúa, M., Roope, L., & Tarp, F. (2016). Global Inequality: Relatively Lower, Absolutely Higher. *Review of Income and Wealth*, n/a-n/a. <https://doi.org/10.1111/roiw.12240>
- Piketty, T. (2015a). About Capital in the Twenty-First Century. *American Economic Review*, 105(5), 48–53. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.p20151060>
- Piketty, T. (2015b). Putting Distribution Back at the Center of Economics: Reflections on Capital in the Twenty-First Century. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(1), 67–88. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.29.1.67>
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