

(GPP 826) Dynamics of Income Inequality and Poverty

Pre-requisites: None

Learning objectives

Against the backdrop of economic crises, fiscal imbalances and persistent unemployment, rising income inequality and poverty have become some of the key challenges for nations around the world. The purpose of this course is to critically and empirically analyze income inequality and poverty with a focus on measurement, development, and public policy responses. This course will introduce students to the structure, development and form of inequality and poverty in a cross-national and longitudinal perspective. It will analyze how inequality and poverty affects policy preferences and political behavior. It will also shed light on the role of social stratification and its effect on income inequality and poverty.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Critically examine the dimensions, causes, consequences and perpetuation of inequality and poverty
- Understand different measures of inequality and poverty, their value and empirical dimensions
- Understand the role of policy in producing, maintaining, and alleviating poverty and inequality
- Understand stratification and inequality by various social dimensions such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, immigration status, disability, age, sexual orientation and family structure.
- Have an understanding of methods for promoting social and economic justice

Course Contents

Defining income inequality and poverty. Trends and characteristics of income inequality and poverty. Theories of income inequality and poverty. Inequality, poverty and the

economy. Concentration of poverty. Social Stratification: race and discrimination. Political implications of income inequality and poverty: effect on policy preferences and voting behavior. Anti-poverty measures.

Text books

1. Rycroft, R. (2014). The economics of inequality, discrimination, poverty, and mobility.
2. Amiel, Y., & Cowell, F. (1999). Thinking about inequality: Personal judgment and income distributions. Cambridge University Press.
3. Thurow, L. C. (1969). Poverty and discrimination. Brookings Inst Pr.