



Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

INEQUALITY, POVERTY AND GLOBALISATION

Number of sessions: 30

Length of each session: 1,5 hour

Total length of the module: 45 hours

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Inequality defines the world we live in. At the turn of the 21st century, the richest five percent of people received one-third of total global income, the next 15 percent richer got another third while the poorest 80 percent of the population had to share the remaining third. In this course we will study the development of international and global inequality, inequality within nations, gender inequality and poverty in the long run. The main questions that the student will be able to discuss are: has inequality increased over time? does globalisation make the world more unequal?, what policies have been implemented in order to reduce inequality and how effective have they been?, and why should we care about poverty?

REQUIREMENTS

Fluent in English

CONTENTS

International and global inequality

1. Concepts of inequality: international and global inequality
2. Development in the 19th and 20th centuries: origins of the big divergence between countries
3. Factors explaining international inequality
4. A decrease but high level of global inequality in the last 20 years
5. Does globalisation make the world more unequal?

Inequality within nations

6. Concept of income inequality
7. Did growth breed inequality or did inequality breed growth?
8. Redistributive response
9. The role of the Welfare State

Gender Inequality

10. Gender inequality within the family
11. Inequality in the labour market: wage discrimination



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Poverty

12. Concepts of poverty. Nature of poverty
13. Poverty in Rich Countries. Poverty in poor countries
14. Poverty: Why should we care?

GRADING

Mid-term exam (30%): To be written in class. The exam will have five short questions on the material from the lectures and readings.

Review Essay (30%): a review essay of approximately 8 pages that discusses two readings. A part from summarizing the text, the essay should answer the following questions: what thesis is the author arguing? what evidence does the author use to substantiate the thesis? And, does the evidence sustain the argument?

Final Exam (40%): To be written in class. The exam will consist of five questions on the material from the lectures and readings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aghion, Philippe & Williamson, Jeffrey G. (1998), *Growth, Inequality and Globalization: Theory, History and Policy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Beneria, Lourdes, (2003), *Gender, Development and Globalization. Economics as if all People Mattered*, London & NY, Routledge.

Brenner, Y.S.; Kaelble, H. & Thomas, M. (1991), *Income Distribution in Historical Perspective*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Milanovic, Branko (2005), *Worlds apart: measuring international and global inequality*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Sen, Amartya (2000), *Development as freedom*, New York, Anchor Books.