

Interdisciplinary

Academic year 2019-2020

Poverty and Inequality

DE133 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 14h15 - 16h00

Course Description

This course focuses on how issues of poverty and inequality have been conceptualized in debates on development, particularly from a global perspective. The objective of the course is to be able to critically examine different theoretical perspectives and possible policy alternatives to these global dilemmas. After an introduction to the main concepts, the course is organized around four main sections: (1) Decolonization and Globalization, (2) Rule of law, Justice and Democracy (3) Human Rights, Culture and Recognition of Differences and (4) Environment. At the end of each section, there will be group presentation in case studies related to the topic discussed.

> PROFESSOR

[Anne Saab](#)

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> ASSISTANT

Lena Holzer

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Syllabus

Course assessment

Students in this course will be assessed on the following:

10% attendance and participation

30% group presentations at the end of each unit

60% two essays of max 1500 words on two of the topics covered in the course (of students' choice, but excluding the unit in which he or she is presenting)

Detailed instructions for each of the assessment components will be provided in class and on Moodle.

Course outline

INTRODUCTION

Class 1 - Introduction to the course (17 September 2019)

Class 2 - Inequality and Poverty – a few concepts (24 September 2019)

Description: This session introduces the concepts of development, inequality, and poverty.

Readings:

- Gustavo Esteva, Chapter 1 'Development' in Sachs, Wolfgang. [*The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*](#). London: Zed Books, 2010 edition, pp. 1-23.
- Douglas Lummis, Chapter 3: 'Equality' in Sachs, Wolfgang. [*The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*](#). London: Zed Books, 2010 edition, pp. 38-54.
- Majid Rahnema, Chapter 11: 'Poverty' in Sachs, Wolfgang. [*The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*](#). London: Zed Books, 2010 edition, pp 174-194.
- Reis, Elisa. "Equality, Inequality, and Difference." *New Cultural Frontiers* (2) (2011).

1. DECOLONIZATION, GLOBALIZATION AND DYNAMICS OF GLOBAL POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

***Deadline for submitting presentation topic preferences by noon on Monday 30 September; groups and topics allocated by Tuesday 1 October.*

** Tutorial session 1 on essay writing – between 1-4 October*

** Tutorial session on preparation for group presentations for unit 1 – between 1-4 October*

Precise dates and times for tutorial session to be confirmed at the start of the course.

Class 3: Decolonization and Globalization (01 October 2019)

Description: This session examines the influence of decolonization, international law, and globalization on inequality and poverty.

Readings:

- Antony Anghie, '[The Evolution of International Law: Colonial and Postcolonial Realities](#)', *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 27, No. 5, 2006, pp.739 – 753.
- Pahuja, Sundhya. [*Decolonizing International: Law Development, Economic Growth and the Politics of Universality*](#). Cambridge University Press, 2013: pp.1-10 and 44-94.
- François Bourguignon, *The Globalization of Inequality*, Princeton University Press 2015. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Class 4: Global and Domestic Dynamics of Poverty and Inequality (08 October 2019)

Description: This session presents data on the recent trends in Global and Domestic inequalities in the developed and the developing world and presents some of the classical measures of the economics debate as well as its limits.

Readings:

- Milanovic, Branko. *Global inequality: A new approach for the age of globalization*. Harvard University Press, 2016. (Chapters 1-3)
- Ravallion, Martin. "Income inequality in the developing world." *Science* 344.6186 (2014): 851-855.

Class 5 – Immigration, Poverty and Inequality (15 October 2019)

Description: Group presentations on a case study that explores the relationship between immigration, poverty and inequality.

***deadline essays Unit 1 on Friday 18 October by 17:00h.*

2. DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE

** Tutorial session on preparation for group presentations for unit 2 – between 22-25 October*

Class 6 – Rule of Law and Access to Justice (22 October 2019)

Description: This session will focus on the concept of rule of law and specifically on access to justice. Particular attention is given to gender inequality and in access to justice.

Readings:

- World Justice Project, '[Rule of Law Index 2017-2018](#)', read Part 1.
- Thomas Carothers, '[Promoting the Rule of Law Abroad: The Problem of Knowledge](#)', Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Democracy and Rule of Law Project, Working Papers number 34, January 2003.
- UN General Assembly, '[Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels](#)', A/Res/67/1, 30 November 2012.
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), '[General Recommendation on Women's Access to Justice](#)', CEDAW/C/GC/33, 23 July 2015.

Class 7: Politics, Poverty and Inequality: Political Inequality and Unequal Politics (29 October 2019)

Description: This session discusses the relationship between politics and inequality, from the classical political science approaches (i.e. median voter theory) to recent debates on participation, unequal democracies and elite politics.

Readings:

- Acemoglu, D., Naidu, S., Restrepo, P., & Robinson, J. A. (2015). "Democracy, redistribution, and inequality". In *Handbook of income distribution* (Vol. 2, pp. 1885-1966). Elsevier.
- Heller, Patrick, and Peter Evans. "Taking Tilly south: durable inequalities, democratic contestation, and citizenship in the Southern Metropolis." *Theory and Society* 39.3-4 (2010): 433-450.
- Kawanaka, Takeshi, and Yasushi Hazama. *Political Determinants of Income Inequality in Emerging Democracies*. Springer, 2016. (Chapter 1)

- Suggested Documentary: Beyond vote

Class 8 - Participatory Democracy and Redistribution (5 November 2019)

Description: Group presentations on a case study of participatory practices targeting redistribution, such as participatory budget and micro-finance groups and deadline essays unit 2.

**deadline essays Unit 2 on Friday 8 November by 17:00h.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS, RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENCES AND CULTURE

* *Tutorial session 2 on essay writing – between 12-15 November*

* *Tutorial sessions on preparation for group presentations for unit 3 – between 12-15 November*

* *Tutorial sessions on preparation for group presentations for unit 4 – between 26-29 November*

Class 9 – Human rights (12 November 2019)

Description: This session looks into international human rights law and how it is invoked in the struggle against poverty and inequality. The session also covers the idea of cultural relativism and the supposed universality of human rights.

Readings:

- Andrew Clapham, 'Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction', Oxford University Press 2015, Chapters 1 & 2.
- Christine Chinkin, '[The United Nations Decade for the Elimination of Poverty: What Role for International Law?](#)' *Critical Legal Problems* 54, no. 1 (2001), pp.553-589.
- Margot Salomon, '[Why Should it Matter that Others Have More? - Poverty, Inequality and the Potential of International Human Rights Law](#)', LSE Legal Studies Working Paper No. 15/2010.
- Jack Donnelly, '[Cultural Relativism and Human Rights](#)', *Human Rights Quarterly* 6, no.4 (1984), pp.400-419.

Class 10 – Recognition of Differences and Inequality (19 November 2019)

Description: This session discusses the symbolic dimensions of the poverty and inequality debates and their tensions.

Readings:

- Fraser, Nancy. "Rethinking recognition." *New left review* 3 (2000): 107.
- Choo, Hae Yeon, and Myra Marx Ferree. "Practicing intersectionality in sociological research: A critical analysis of inclusions, interactions, and institutions in the study of inequalities." *Sociological theory* 28.2 (2010): 129-149.
- Hale, Charles R. "Neoliberal multiculturalism." *PoLAR: political and legal anthropology review* 28.1 (2005): 10-19.
- Olson, Joan Toms. "Perceptions of global inequality: A call for research." *Social Justice Research* 10.1 (1997): 39-62.
- Small, Mario Luis, David J. Harding, and Michèle Lamont. "Reconsidering culture and poverty." (2010): 6-27.

Class 11 – Human Rights Litigation, Race, Ethnicity and Gender (26 November 2019)

Description: Group presentations on cases of human rights litigation about race, ethnic and gender inequalities and discrimination and deadline essays unit 3.

***deadline essays Unit 3 on Friday 29 November by 17:00h.*

4. ENVIRONMENT

Class 12 – Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice (3 December 2019) [invited guest lecturer(s) TBC]

Description: This session will explore the concepts of sustainable development and environmental justice, with a special focus on climate justice.

Readings:

- Bill Hopwood, Mary Mellow, Geoff O'Brien, '[Sustainable Development: Mapping Different Approaches](#)' *Sustainable Development* 13 (2005), pp.38-52.
- Further readings TBC by guest lecturer(s)

Class 13: Local Resistance to Environment degradation (10 December 2019)

Description: Group presentations and debate on cases of local resistance to environmental degradation, commodity extraction and other processes of marketization of nature.

***deadline essays Unit 4 on Friday 13 December by 17:00h.*

5. CONCLUSION

Class 14 – Documentary & Debate (17 December 2019)