

Poverty and Inequality (EC 122)
 Tues and Thurs 2:30-3:45pm, Donahue 637
FINAL EXAM Wednesday May4th 1:00pm-3:50pm

Dr. Benjamin Powell
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 Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:30pm and by appointment (Weds is a good day for an appointment)

This course will examine the causes of poverty and inequality and critically evaluate potential economic, governmental, and charitable/NGO solutions for the alleviation. The basic analytical “toolkit” of economics will be used throughout the course though no prior knowledge of economics is assumed.

The course will be broken into three parts. In the first part of the course you will learn the basic economic ideas, consider what poverty and inequality are and how we measure them. The second part of the course will study poverty and inequality in the U.S. and evaluate efforts at eliminating them. Finally the third part will examine poverty and inequality in today’s globalized economy. World Bank poverty alleviation programs in Africa will be a major focus of this final component of the course.

Grading

Final Exam 40%
 3 Exams 60% (20% each)
 Participation 5% (Bonus Credit)

Required Books

Common Sense Economics by James Gwartney, Richard Stroup, and Dwight Lee

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

Myths of the Rich and Poor by Michael Cox and Richard Alm

The Elusive Quest for Growth by William Easterly

The Conquest of Poverty by Henry Hazlitt (Print Copy or free online at <http://www.mises.org/books/conquest.pdf>)

Academic Integrity

Any student caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing will receive a grade of “0” on the assignment. I also reserve the right to report the offending student to the Dean of Students. Consult your student handbook for further information.

Tentative Schedule

Week of	Topic	Readings
January 18 & 20	Introduction What are Poverty and Inequality?	<i>Vonnegut</i> Handout

January 25 & 27	10 Key Elements of Economics	<i>Common Sense Econ</i> pp. 1-33
February 1 & 3	10 Keys Cont. and Hist Perspective	<i>Conquest</i> pp. 13-39, 66-84
February 8 & 10	7 Sources of Econ Progress	<i>Common Sense Econ</i> pp. 33-75
February 15 & 17	Quiz and Nickel and Dimed Discussion	<u>Exam 1 Feb 17th</u> <i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 1-49
February 22 & 24	Measuring Poverty and Inequality	<i>Handouts</i> <i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 51-119 <i>Myths</i> pp. 3-22
March 1 & 3	Measuring Cont.	<i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 121-191 <i>Myths</i> pp. 23-90
March 8 & 10	Anti Poverty Programs Barriers to Escaping Poverty	<i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 193-221 <i>Myths</i> pp. 139-156
Spring Break		<u>Exam 2 March 10th</u>
March 22 & 24	Cont.	<i>Conquest</i> Chaps 11, 14, 20
March 29 & 21	3 rd World Poverty & Aid	<i>Elusive</i> pp. xi-46
April 5 & 7	Education, Population, Loans & Debt	<i>Elusive</i> pp. 71-138 <u>Exam 3 on April 7th</u>
April 12 & 14	Africa: Who is to Blame?	Video shown in class Followed by discussion
April 19 & 21	Freedom, Poverty & Inequality, and Development	Handouts (4pm guest lecture on 19 th)
April 26 & 28	Migration	Handouts

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