

Poverty and Inequality (SF-158-A-07/FA)
 Tues/Thurs 8:30-9:45am, Sawyer 1134
FINAL EXAM Thurs December 13th 8:00-9:50am

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 Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 2-3pm and by 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. In addition to economics we will consider philosophical, historical, political, sociological, legal, racial, and gender aspects of poverty and inequality.

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	20%
3 Quizzes	30% (10% each)
3 Papers	45% (15% each)
Participation	5%

There will be a quiz and paper assigned to match each segment of the course. The final exam will be comprehensive. Paper topics will be assigned in class at least two weeks before they are due.

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

Date	Topic	Readings
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Sept. 6 th	Introduction	
Sept. 11 th /13 th	What are Poverty and Inequality?	<i>Conquest</i> pp. 13-39, 66-84 <i>Vonnegut</i> Handout
Sept. 18 th /20 th	10 Key Elements of Economics	<i>Common Sense Econ</i> pp. 1-33
Sept. 25 th /27 th	10 Key cont.	<u>Quiz 1 on Sept 27th</u>
Oct. 2 nd /4 th	7 Sources of Econ Progress	<i>Common Sense Econ</i> pp. 33-75 <i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 1-49
Oct. 9 th /11 th	Measuring Poverty and Inequality	<i>Handouts</i> <i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 51-119 <i>Myths</i> pp. 3-22
Oct. 16 th /18 th	Measuring Cont.	<i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 121-191 <i>Myths</i> pp. 23-90
Oct. 23 rd /25 th	Anti Poverty Programs	<i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 193-221 <i>Myths</i> pp. 139-156 <i>Handouts</i>
Oct. 30 th /Nov 1 st	Programs Cont.	<i>Conquest</i> Chaps 11, 14, 20 <i>Handouts</i>
Nov. 6 th /8 th	Barriers to escaping Poverty	<i>Handouts</i> <u>Quiz 2 on Nov. 8th</u>
Nov. 13 th /15 th	3 rd World Poverty & Aid	<i>Elusive</i> pp. xi-46
Nov. 20 th	Africa: Who is to Blame?	Video shown in class
Nov. 27 th /29 th	Education, Population, Loans & Debt	<i>Elusive</i> pp. 71-138
Dec. 4 th /6 th	Freedom, Poverty and Inequality	<i>Handouts</i> <u>Quiz 3 on Dec. 6th</u>

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