

SYLLABUS

Name of the course:	Introduction to Inequality Studies			
Teacher:	Julia Taylor and Guests			
University / organisation:	University of the Witwatersrand			
Language of teaching:	English			
ECTS:	10			
Semester (S1, S2, S3 or S4):	<input type="checkbox"/> S1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S2	<input type="checkbox"/> S3	<input type="checkbox"/> S4
Teaching method(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture courses		<input type="checkbox"/> Flipped classroom	
	Other:			
Type(s) of evaluation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sitting exam		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written report	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral defence		<input type="checkbox"/> Group project	
	Other / comments: Class participation: 5%) Critical Reflection: 10% Oral Quiz : 20% Class Presentation: 10% Book Review: 15% Final Exam: 40%			
Expected deadline(s) for the evaluation(s)	Continuous throughout semester			
Expected date of final results:	End of Semester (July)			
Summary of the content:	<p>Inequality Studies is an emerging interdisciplinary field within the social sciences. This course presents an overview of the key literature and the main debates within the field of inequality studies. It equips students to approach the inequality literature from a critical perspective, and engage in key debates. The first section of the course will provide an overview of the interdisciplinary study of inequalities. We will examine the various theoretical perspectives and key debates within the field of ‘inequality studies’, as well as what makes inequality in the global South distinctive. The second section examines the role of work, employment and unemployment in both reproducing and addressing inequality. It focuses on the world of work in the global South, and examines how the education system and the labour market intersect, both to reproduce and to ameliorate inequality. In the third section we will explore how inequality is experienced and maintained by focusing on various intersecting ‘sites’ of inequality. These include urban infrastructure, climate change, ownership, racial capitalism, and wealth inequality and elites. The fourth section of the course turns to an examination of policies to overcome inequality.</p>			

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<p>Indicative list of lectures¹:</p>	<p>Introduction to Inequality Studies</p> <p>Defining, conceptualising and measuring inequality</p> <p>Global knowledge and inequality</p> <p>Inequality and the world of work</p> <p>Education, skills and work</p> <p>Wealth inequality and elites</p> <p>Racial capitalism</p> <p>Urban (infrastructural) inequality</p> <p>Climate change, environmental crises and inequality</p> <p>Ownership and Inequality</p> <p>Social policy, social protection, and inequality</p>
<p>Short bibliography:</p>	<p>Atkinson, A. 2015. <i>Inequality: What can be done?</i> Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Francis, D., Valodia, I., and Webster, E. 2020, <i>Inequality Studies from the Global South</i>, Wits University Press and Routledge.</p> <p>Hickel, J. 2017. <i>The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and its Solutions</i>. London: Penguin Random House</p> <p>Jodhka, S., and Rehbein, B. (eds). 2024. <i>Global Handbook of Inequality</i>. Springer Nature.</p> <p>Mosoetsa, S. 2011. <i>Eating from One Pot: The dynamics of survival in poor South African Households</i>. Wits University Press.</p> <p>Piketty, T. 2014. <i>Capital in the Twenty-First Century</i>. Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Sanchez, D. 2020. <i>The Costs of Inequality in Latin America: lessons and warnings for the rest of the world</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Savage, M. 2021. <i>The Return of Inequality: Social Change and the Weight of the Past</i>. Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Sen, A. 1992. <i>Inequality Re-examined</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Terreblanche, S. .2003. <i>A History of Inequality in South Africa: 1652-2002</i>. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.</p> <p>Therborn, G. (ed). 2006. <i>Inequalities of the World</i>. Verso Press. London, New York.</p> <p>Therborn, G., 2013. <i>The Killing Fields of Inequality</i>. Polity Press.</p>

¹ Provide, if already possible, an indicative list of topics you will cover in each lecture.