

SYLLABUS

Name of the course:	The Political Economy of Inequalities I			
Teacher:	Jürgen Essletzbichler, Hendrik Theine			
University / organisation:	WU Vienna University of Economics and Business			
Language of teaching:	English			
ECTS:	4			
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):	lectures, seminar discussions, independent reading			
Type(s) of evaluation:	Class participation; written individual report			
Summary of the content:	<p>This concentration area will cover a key arena of contemporary debates on the role of inequality for social and political cohesion, economic and social sustainability. The concentration area runs over two semesters, with a two-hour unit running in summer semesters followed by four-hour units running in winter semesters. Although the two units are assessed separately, they should be interpreted as an integrated unit where lessons from the two-hour unit carry over to the four-hour unit course.</p> <p>In this first semester, the concentration area will start with introducing students to standard work on the causes of earnings, wage and wealth inequality of and negative socio-economic consequences for individuals and society. It will then critically question and move beyond a narrow focus on individual or household income to various forms of group inequality (gender, ethnicity/race, territories, neighborhoods) and non-monetary forms of inequality, rounded off by discussions on power relations, the role of the media, and the decisive role of institutions.</p> <p>In keeping with the requirements of a socio-economic approach, this requires a trans-disciplinary focus drawing not only on economics but also on sociology, political science, philosophy, political economy, feminist theory and geography.</p>			
Indicative list of lectures:	<p>Course content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course • Economics of Inequality I - Wage, income and wealth inequality • Economics of Inequality II - Consequences of inequality • Inequality and the climate crisis • Inequality discourses: Legitimizing inequality • Social stratification, racism and power • Gender and intersectional inequalities • Colonial Global Economy and Inequality 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectional inequalities and the care crisis • Economic crises and the public-to-private wealth transfer
<p>Short bibliography:</p>	<p>There will be two to three papers for each topic students are expected to read prior to the seminars.</p> <p>General literature on inequality:</p> <p>Bhambra, G.K. and McClure, J. (eds) (2022) Imperial Inequalities. Manchester University Press.</p> <p>Hacker, J. and Pierson P. (2011) Winner-Take-All Politics. Simon and Schuster.</p> <p>Hacker, J. and Pierson, P. (2020) Let Them Eat Tweets. How the Right Rules in an Age of Extreme Inequality. LetLive.</p> <p>Massey, D. (2007) Categorically Unequal. Russel Sage Foundation.</p> <p>Milanovic, B. (2016). Global Inequality. A New Approach for the Age of Globalization. Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Patnaik, U. and Patnaik, P. (2021) Capital and Imperialism: Theory, History, and the Present. Monthly Review Press.</p> <p>Piketty, T. (2019). Capital and Ideology. Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Sayer, A. (2016) Why We Can't Afford the Rich. Policy Press.</p> <p>Schutz, E. (2022) Inequality, Class, and Economics. Monthly Review Press.</p> <p>Stiglitz, J. (2012) The Price of Inequality. Norton.</p> <p>Sultana, Farhana (ed) 2024. Confronting Climate Coloniality: Decolonizing Pathways for Climate Justice Routledge: London and New York.</p> <p>Trounstine, R. (2018) Segregation by Design. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Wilkinson, R. and K. Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level</p> <p>Danny Dorling has a number of books on inequality, the top 1% and the need to curb it. He is interesting because he combines demographic, health, economic, social, housing, power, environmental inequalities.</p> <p>http://www.dannydorling.org/</p>