

Economics 5180/6180**Poverty & Inequality**

Spring 2022

Class Periods: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:25pm-1:45pm MST in GC 3680

Instructor: Marshall Steinbaum**Email:** marshall.steinbaum@economics.utah.edu. Please contact me directly by email, not through the Canvas email system.**Office Hours:** 3:45-4:45pm MST on Tuesdays, or by appointment in GC 4229. Please note that I teach a different course immediately following our class periods this semester, so I will not be available to answer questions directly after lecturing.**Required Materials**Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (2014) Harvard University Press. ("C21")

Other required readings will be posted to Canvas.

Course Description

This course focuses on economic inequality within countries and at the global level. The first part of the course is an overview of comparative inequality within developed economies and its components: inequality between and within capital and labor, the creation, valuation, and persistence of wealth, explanations for unequal labor incomes among workers and between employers, and the combination of capital and labor income inequality in each country's personal income distribution. This section of the course relies heavily on *Capital in the 21st Century*.

The course will then move to a series of topics:

- Absolute wellbeing and deprivation (poverty), as well as inequality in health and life expectancy as measures of absolute welfare.
- Inequality by race and gender.
- Global inequality, mobility of capital and labor between countries, as well as trends in inequality within developing countries, with several example countries.
- Social mobility: inheritance of economic status between generations, from parents to children, as well as the societal mechanisms that contribute to or erode it.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and understand trends in inequality in the US, other countries, and globally, over time.
- Distinguish inequality between and within capital and labor.
- Understand different measures of poverty and how they have changed over time.
- Explain the persistence of inequality on the basis of race and gender and understand the mechanisms that give rise to it.
- Understand how global inequality relates to within-country inequality, different countries' recent experience with inequality, and how absolute and relative measures of inequality relate to one another.
- Comprehend scholarly and public debates about the causes of inequality, and critically assess explanations for trends in inequality in light of the evidence.

Evaluation

In addition to in-class discussion, each week there will be a Canvas-based discussion board in which key questions will be posed related to that week's topics. Students are required to participate in both forms of discussion.

There will be both a midterm and a final exam, held during a single class period. Exam questions for this course will be similar to discussion questions, requiring a short answer. The two things that are most important in answering such questions that may appear open-ended are 1. Answer the question that is asked, and 2. Make use of the empirical evidence covered in the lectures, readings, discussions, and other course material.

The material covered in this class is frequently contentious and controversial. Students should feel able to express themselves at all times in class, on online discussion boards, and in their assignments and exams. Please maintain a climate of mutual respect for one another.

University Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
2. ***University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

3. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
4. ***Undocumented Student Support Statement.*** Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit dream.utah.edu.
5. ***Attendance.*** It is usually my policy to require attendance at in-person lectures, but under the circumstances of a COVID wave coinciding with the start of the semester, that won't work for the present. Our classroom is equipped with an area camera, and I will make every effort to facilitate Zoom functionality (through Canvas) for in-person lectures. But I cannot guarantee that the technology will be adequate to both see and interact with what's happening in the classroom, and for students participating on Zoom to participate in in-class discussion.

Lecture slides that I present in class will be available subsequently on Canvas. Between those slides, the required reading, and the asynchronous Canvas discussion boards, it is probably possible to master the course material. But students not attending in person must make sure they do in fact fully make use of those three alternative sources of material.

If you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the Center for Disability and Access (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.

Course Policies

Punctuality: Lectures will commence promptly at the scheduled time. Late arrivals can be disruptive.

Participation: All students are expected to participate in online class discussion boards on Canvas.

Canvas: It is students' responsibility to keep up with assignments and due dates posted to Canvas and read the material posted there.

Academic integrity: Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. If you are detected copying the work of others, either fellow students or published material, the minimum penalty is a grade of zero on whatever exam or assignment is plagiarized. Additional penalties, as specified in university policies, may be applied above that.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined by weighted numerical average (not the raw averages reported on Canvas).

Online discussions & in-class participation:	25%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam (cumulative):	50%

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99	F

Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Discussion</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1: January 10th	Unit I: Inequality within developed economies Introduction Definitions & Stylized Facts	
	Introduction to C21	C21, Intro & Ch.1
Week 2: January 17th	Capital as a factor of production	C21, Ch 3-4
	Who owns capital?	C21, Ch 5
Week 3: January 24th	The capital-labor split Valuing Capital	C21, Ch 6-8
Week 4: January 31st	Earnings inequality between workers & firms	C21, Ch 9
	Theories of labor income inequality	
Week 5: February 7 th	Wealth Inequality	C21, Ch 12
	Inheritance	C21, Ch. 11
Week 6: February 14th	Summing up Unit I: Inequality within developed countries	
	Unit II: Poverty and Health Inequality Measuring Poverty and Extreme Poverty	
Week 7: February 21 st	Health and life expectancy in the US	
Week 8: February 28th	“Deaths of Despair”	
	Midterm Exam (tentative: Thursday, March 3rd)	
Week 9: March 7 th	Spring Break	

Week 10:
March 14th

Unit III: Race and Gender Inequality

Overview of Racial Inequality
Detecting and Measuring Discrimination and Segregation

Week 11:
March 21st

Gender inequality and household labor

Week 12:
March 28th

Unit IV: Global Inequality

Global Inequality & Poverty: stylized facts
International mobility of capital and labor

Week 13:
April 4th

Migration and “Citizenship rents” *Global Inequality* Ch. 3

The cases of China, Brazil, and Russia

Week 14:
April 11th

Unit V: Intergenerational Social Mobility

Absolute & Relative Intergenerational Mobility

Week 15:
April 18th

Higher Education & migration as mechanisms for social mobility

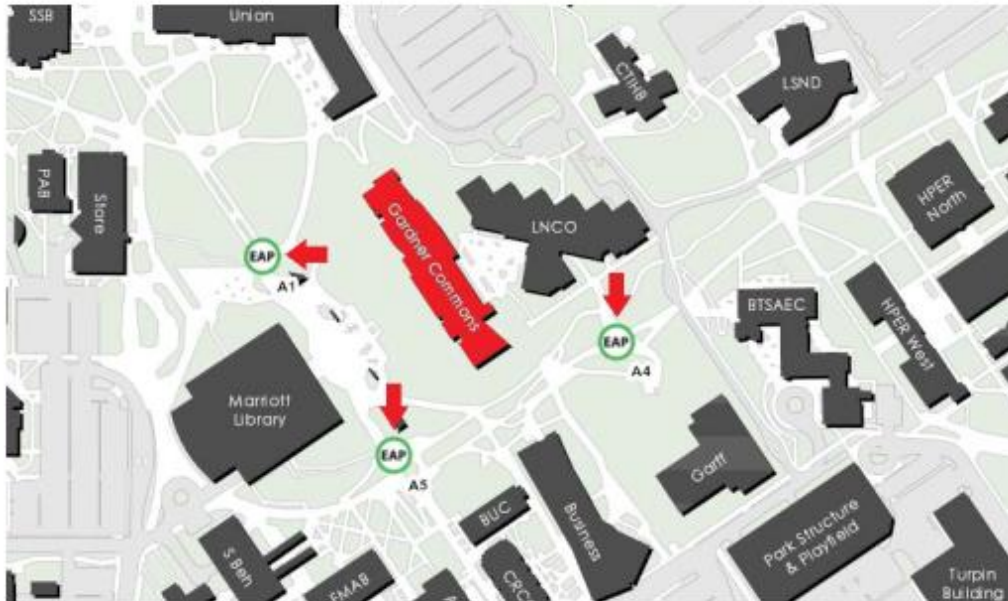
Week 16:
April 25th

Historical examples of social mobility & immobility

Final Exam (Tentative: Thursday, April 28th)

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.