CPO 4784 Political and Economic Inequality in Comparative Perspective
Spring 2016

Contact Information:

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Course Description:

The focus of this course is on economic and political inequality and the nature of the link between the two. We explore political and economic sources of inequality, and consider the implications of inequality for political and economic outcomes. We examine approaches, strategies, and institutions that address inequality across countries with different political and economic arrangements.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course you will:

- Have good knowledge of the sources of political and economic inequality
- Have good knowledge of the political and social implications of political and economic inequality
- Have good knowledge of the mechanisms linking political and economic inequality
- Use your knowledge of the link between political and economic inequality to think analytically about current domestic and international political issues
- Use your knowledge of the link between political and economic inequality to think critically about domestic and international policy issues

Required textbooks:

Arthur M. Okun. 1975. *Equality and Efficiency. The Big Tradeoff.* The Brookings Institution.

Additional readings will be attached to weekly class modules.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups, Extra credit

There will be a penalty of one letter grade for all late work (except for cases involving overriding and well documented personal circumstances). Students need to request permission for any late submission of work; if the request is granted work should be submitted within one week of the missed deadline.

There is **extra credit** for this course.

Recording Academic Activity Policy

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please **complete the assignments for Module One** by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but **no later than January 15**. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

Evaluation and Grading

Grade Categories	Requirement	Grade Weight
Module One		5%
Module Four		10%
Seven Modules	Modules 2,3,5,6,7,8,9	60%
Research Paper	Module 10	25%

- Grading information on the specific assignment will be provided in the assignment itself.
- To complete the course you ought to complete all assignments.

- The following plus/minus grading system will apply in this course.
  A = 93+, A- = 90-92, B+ = 88-89, B = 83-87, B- = 80-82, C+ = 78-79,
  C = 73-77, C- = 70-72, D+ = 68-69, D = 63-67, D- = 60-62,
  F= 59 or below.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

CPO 4784 - Schedule Spring 2016

Week	Topic & Reading	Assignments	Due Date
January 11	Getting Started Arthur Okun, *Equality and Efficiency*: **Foreward** (by Kevin Gordon)	**Module 1**	**January 15, 11 PM**
January 19	Economic Inequality: • Definitions • Measurement • History of Thought: From Malthus to Kuznets Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the 21st Century*: **Introduction**	**Module 2**	**January 22, 11 PM**
January 25	Sources of Economic Inequality: Paul Ryscavage, *Income Inequality in America. An analysis of Trends:* **Chapter 5** Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics*: **Chapter 2**	**Module 3**	**January 29, 11 PM**

February 1	Economic and Political Inequality I: Arthur Okun, *Equality and Efficiency*: **Chapter 1** Arend Lijphart, "Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma." *American Political Science Review* 91(1): 1-14	**Module 4**	**February 5, 11 PM**
February 8	Economic and Political Inequality II Arthur Okun, *Equality and Efficiency*: **Chapters 2 & 3** Martin Gilens, *Affluence and Influence. Economic Inequality and Political Power in America:* **Chapter 8**	**Module 4 (cont.)**	**February 12, 11 PM**
February 15	Economic and Political Inequality III Larry M. Bartels, *Unequal Democracy*, **Chapter 10** Frederick Solt, "Economic Inequality and Democratic Political Engagement," *American Journal of Political Science* 52(1): 48-60	**Module 4 (cont.)**	**February 19, 11 PM**

February 22	Social and Political Implications of Economic and Political Inequality Richard Wilkinson, “How Economic Inequality Harms Society” TED talk Joseph E. Stiglitz, *The Price of Inequality*, pp. 173-182	**Module 5**	**February 26, 11 PM**
February 29	Tools Governments Can Use to Reduce Economic Inequality. What are the Constraints? Arthur Okun, *Equality and Efficiency*: **Chapter 4** Benjamin Page and James Simmons, *What Government Can Do. Dealing with Poverty and Inequality*: **Chapter 3**	**Module 6**	**March 4, 11 PM**
March 7	***Spring Break***		
March 14	Tools Governments Can Use to Reduce Economic Inequality. What are the Constraints? II Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the 21st Century*: **Chapters 13 & 15**	**Module 6 (cont.)**	**March 18, 11 PM**

March 21	Economic Inequality in Developing Countries Philip Nel, *The Politics of Economic Inequality in Developing Countries*: **Chapters 3 & 5**	**Module 7**	**March 25, 11 PM**
March 28	Latin America Marcus J. Kurtz, "The dilemmas of Democracy in the Open Economy. Lessons from Latin America, *World Politics* 56(2): 262-302 Kenneth M. Roberts, "The Politics of Inequality and Redistribution in Latin America's Post-Adjustment Era" *in* Giovanni Andrea Cornia (ed.) *Falling Inequality in Latin America. Policy Changes and Lessons*	**Module 8**	**April 1, 11 PM**

April 4	North Africa and the Middle East Mark Tessler, “The Origins of Popular Support for Islamist Movements: A Political Economic Analysis” in Entelis, John (Ed.) *Islam, Democracy and the State in North Africa* Mthuli Neube “Inequality, Economic Growth and Poverty in the Middle East and Africa (MENA).” *African Development Review* 26(3): 435-453	**Module 9**	**April 8, 11 PM**
April 11-25	**Research paper**	**Module 10** • **10-12 page research paper**	**April 29, 11 PM**