Econ 0033: Economics of Inequality

# Lecturer information

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# What will you learn about?

This course will provide an overview of various topics around economic inequalities.

This is a topics course: each week we will cover a different topic. Students are expected to read assigned readings ahead of each lecture.

Topics include:

Measuring inequality

Economic inequality across countries and over time

Minimum wage policies

Gender inequalities

Drivers of wealth inequality

Attitudes towards inequality

Health inequality

Educational inequality

Migration

# Is this course right for you?

# Suitable for: Final year Economics (L100 / L101 / L102), Econ/Geog (LL17), Econ/Stats (LG13), Phil/Econ (VL91), PPE (4V86) and BASc students, subject to satisfying the pre-requisites. Prerequisites: ECON0013: Microeconomics or equivalent and ECON0019 Quantitative Economics and Econometrics.

# What will you know (better) by the end of the course?

By the end of the course, you will know how inequalities compare across countries, over time, and in different realms of life (earnings, health, education). You will have an understanding of the attitudes of people around inequalities, the channels driving them and the tools that policy makers around the world are using to tackle inequalities.

# How do you learn on this course?

You will learn in this course by completing the compulsory readings ahead of class. Each week we will cover a different topic. You will have an opportunity to expand your understanding of the assigned readings during lectures and tutorials. The lecturer and tutor expect you to actively participate in class discussions.

# Readings

We will rely on CORE’s Unit 19: <https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/book/text/19.html> and on the Economic Inequality Pathway tool: <https://www.labxchange.org/library/pathway/lx-pathway:947bd402-9d3a-40f0-bcac-31c660f34459>. We will also use Our World in Data (<https://ourworldindata.org/>) as well as the CORE Inequality Skyscraper Plot (<https://www.core-econ.org/inequality-skyscrapers/>) to visualise the evolution of inequality.

Additionally, every week you will be assigned compulsory readings. Please check the Moodle page regularly.

# Assessment

Typically, assessment will be based on a final exam to be held in Term 3, which will count for 70% of the grade, and on a group research project, which will count for 30% of the grade.

Each group is usually expected to submit their research project and present it during the last lecture in December.

The research project will be an original piece of research that analyses an aspect of inequality of your choosing (e.g. income, consumption, health, education). You are encouraged to use data, either by downloading it from reputable statistics websites (e.g. OWID, OECD, World Bank etc.), or by collecting it yourself (e.g. online survey). You will then analyse the data to identify patterns of inequality across people or over time, and you will use what you have learned during the course to explain the likely origins of inequality or potential policy tools to address it.