

Poverty and Inequality (EC 122)

MWF 10:00-10:50am, Sawyer 1021

FINAL EXAM Wednesday April 30th 8:00am-9:50am

Dr. Benjamin Powell

Department of Economics

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2-3pm and by appointment

This course will examine the causes of poverty and inequality and critically evaluate potential economic, governmental, and charitable/NGO solutions for the alleviation. The basic analytical “toolkit” of economics will be used throughout the course though no prior knowledge of economics is assumed.

The course will be broken into three parts. In the first part of the course you will learn the basic economic ideas, consider what poverty and inequality are and how we measure them. The second part of the course will study poverty and inequality in the U.S. and evaluate efforts at eliminating them. Finally the third part will examine poverty and inequality in today’s globalized economy. World Bank poverty alleviation programs in Africa will be a major focus of this final component of the course.

Grading

Final Exam 40%

3 Quizzes 30% (10% each)

Term Paper 25%

Participation 5%

There will be a quiz for each segment of the course. The final exam will be comprehensive. Term paper topics will be discussed in class about a month into the semester.

Required Books

Common Sense Economics by James Gwartney, Richard Stroup, and Dwight Lee

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

Myths of the Rich and Poor by Michael Cox and Richard Alm

The Elusive Quest for Growth by William Easterly

The Conquest of Poverty by Henry Hazlitt (Print Copy or free online at <http://www.mises.org/books/conquest.pdf>)

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Academic Integrity

Any student caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing will receive a grade of “0” on the assignment. I also reserve the right to report the offending student to the Dean of Students. Consult your student handbook for further information.

Tentative Schedule

Week of	Topic	Readings
January 14 th -18 th	Introduction What are Poverty and Inequality?	<i>Vonnegut</i> Handout
January 21 st -25 th (No Mon Class)	10 Key Elements of Economics	<i>Common Sense Econ</i> pp. 1-33
January 28 th -Feb 1 st	10 Keys Cont. and Hist Perspective	<i>Conquest</i> pp. 13-39, 66-84
February 4 th -8 th	7 Sources of Econ Progress	<i>Common Sense Econ</i> pp. 33-75
February 11 th -15 th	Quiz and Nickel and Dimed Discussion Begin Term Paper Discussion	<u>Quiz 1 Feb 11th</u> <i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 1-49
February 18 th -22 nd (No Mon Class)	Measuring Poverty and Inequality	<i>Handouts</i> <i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 51-119 <i>Myths</i> pp. 3-22
February 25 th -29 th	Measuring Cont.	<i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 121-191 <i>Myths</i> pp. 23-90
March 3 rd -7 th	Anti Poverty Programs Barriers to Escaping Poverty	<i>Nickel & Dimed</i> pp. 193-221 <i>Myths</i> pp. 139-156 <i>Handouts</i>
March 10 th -14 th	Cont.	<u>Quiz 2 March 14th</u> <i>Conquest</i> Chaps 11, 14, 20
March 24 th -28 th	3 rd World Poverty & Aid	<i>Elusive</i> pp. xi-46
March 31 st -April 4 th	Education, Population, Loans & Debt	<i>Elusive</i> pp. 71-138
April 7 th -11 th	Africa: Who is to Blame?	Video shown in class Followed by discussion
April 14 th -18 th	Freedom, Poverty & Inequality, and Development	Handouts <u>Quiz 3 on April. 18th</u>
April 23 rd (No Mon or Fri)	Conclusions and Questions	<u>Term Papers Due</u>

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