

Department of Political Science
McGill University
Winter 2017

Political Science 474
Inequality and Development

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Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:00pm

Course Description:

The central focus of this course is on understanding the political determinants of economic inequality in the developing world. Economic inequality concerns issues of class and income, but extends beyond these parameters. It intersects with social issues such as gender, and transnational issues such as globalization and the environment. While economic inequality provides the pivot for the course, the scope of the issues studied will be broad – reflecting the way in which inequality pervades a vast array of political problems in the developing world.

The course is divided into four parts. The first part provides a “big picture” perspective on inequality and development. Here we will look at the relationship between economic growth, poverty, and inequality. We will also address theoretical statements on inequality by the likes of Karl Marx, R.H. Tawney, and Amartya Sen. The second part of the course focuses on macro issues in the politics of inequality: democracy, political parties, and states. The third part of the course addresses key socio-economic themes in inequality: gender, ethnicity, and health. In the last section of the course, we will shift our emphasis from domestic issues to transnational problems of inequality: globalization and environmental justice.

At the end of this course, students should have an analytical understanding of the political determinants of inequality; have increased knowledge of empirical problems related to inequality in the developing world; and have the foundations to pursue further research on the politics of inequality and development.

Course Requirements:

1. Readings: Students are expected to come to the lectures having done the readings beforehand. You will gain more from the lectures with the readings completed.

2. Conferences: Conferences are very important because they provide a venue for discussion and debate of course materials, as well as of contemporary affairs in the region. There are 10 conferences for which attendance is mandatory. However, you are allowed to miss 1 conference for any reason – illness, extracurricular activity, etc. – without having to give an explanation. If you miss a conference besides the 1 free pass, you will only be excused if you provide a medical note. However, you will still have to do the précis assignment (see below).
 - ~Your conference grade will be based on three variables: attendance, a weekly précis, and quality of participation. To get full points for attendance you must have attended at least 9 conferences and handed in a précis each week. (If you attend all 10 conferences and hand in a précis for all 10 conferences, you will be given extra points). The grade for attendance will be based on presence in class and the précis. You will only be marked for attendance if you are present and hand in a précis. If you do only one or the other, you will not get a point for attendance. To get full points for participation, you must participate consistently and thoughtfully.
 - ~The précis is a 1-paragraph typed response to a question that I will ask at the beginning of every Tuesday lecture. The question will be directly related to the readings for the week. You must hand in the précis to your TA at the beginning of conferences. There will be no official grade for the précis other than a notation that it has been handed in. However, the TA will also note down if a précis is particularly strong or particularly weak. Consistently strong or weak précis will have an effect on the overall grade for the conference.
 - ~Note that attendance is extremely important because it is one means of assessing how seriously a student engages with the course. There will be a significant penalty for missing conferences on a regular basis: missing half of the conferences (5, not including the 1 free pass) will result in a “O” for the conference grade.
3. Midterm exam: This exam will consist of identification questions and one essay. The midterm is in class on Tuesday, February 14.
4. Final exam: This exam will be a take-home. The exam will ask you to answer one broad, analytical question in 8-10 double-spaced pages. To answer the question, you will need to use your lecture notes, your readings from the course, notes from the films screened during the course, as well as materials not discussed in the course. Some research besides what is listed in the syllabus will thus be necessary. The exam will be handed out on the last day of lecture class and will be due at 2pm outside my office on Monday April 24. Exams handed in late without prior justification will be marked down 10 points per day. Although you are allowed to discuss the exam with your classmates, you should not share nor show your answers to anyone else. Violations of McGill’s policy on plagiarism and cheating will be duly charged.

Grade Distribution:

1. Midterm exam 40%
2. Final take-home exam 40%
3. Attendance, precis, and quality participation at conferences 20%

Please note:

The content and evaluation of this course is subject to change in the case of unforeseeable events.

Policy on Missed In-Class Exam:

If you are unable to take the midterm in-class exam due to illness, you must notify me in person or via email before the exam. You must then provide me with a formal note from a doctor. I will reschedule one make-up exam for all students who missed the exam several days after the formal date. There will be only one makeup exam date.

Anyone who misses the exam without notifying me before the exam will not be allowed to write the make-up. Consequently, their grade on the midterm will be a 0. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Policy on Laptops in Class:

Research has shown that the use of laptops and other mobile devices in university lecture halls leads to lower focus and retention of materials. This is because multitasking – such as surfing the internet – undermines concentration. I have therefore decided to ban laptops. Only students with a documented disability for whom typing on a laptop is essential will be given exception to this rule. Some articles to read about this:

<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/im-banning-laptops-from-my-classroom-1468184264>

Contact during the Semester:

The best way to get in touch with me is right after class or during office hours. If you have quick queries, you may email me. However, if your query is lengthy or of a more substantive nature that cannot be addressed briefly via email, then my strong

preference is for you to discuss this with me in person during office hours. I furthermore encourage you to meet with me to discuss issues related to the course that are of particular interest to you, or to address any questions you may have. I am very happy to meet all students in this course.

Disabilities:

If you have any learning disabilities that will affect your progress in this course, please contact me as soon as possible so that proper arrangements can be made.

Other Resources:

The course will have a MyCourses component. Students are encouraged to use MyCourses to discuss issues in the course as well as contemporary events that are related to the course topics. I will attach websites and current news articles that may be of interest.

To keep up with issues in development, students are encouraged to read the following: *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, and *The Economist*.

Academic journals that are relevant for the study of politics and development include: *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *World Development*, *Journal of Development Studies*, and *Development and Change*. All of these journals are available online or in print at the McGill library. Students considering graduate school should particularly take notice of these journals.

Statement on Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Film Screenings:

Two documentaries will be shown during this course.

1. On 2/16: "Against My Will" (dir. Ayfer Ergun, 2002, 50 mins.)
3. On 3/30: "A Narmada Diary" (dir. Anand Patwardhan and Simantini Dhuru, 1995, 60 mins.)

These films will provide a broader perspective on the reading materials and also stimulate discussion during the lectures and conferences.

Books to Purchase:

Four books have been ordered at Paragraphe Bookstore on 2220 McGill College Avenue. They will all be put on reserve. All other materials (journal articles and book chapters) will be made available on MyCourses.

Robert H. Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981)

Lamia Karim, *Microfinance and its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011)

Erik Martinez Kuhonta, *The Institutional Imperative: The Politics of Equitable Development in Southeast Asia* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2011)

Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2003)

WEEK 1 (1/5): Introduction

No readings.

WEEK 2 (1/10, 1/12): Inequality and Development in The Big Picture

Nancy Birdsall, "Why Inequality Matters," *Ethics and International Affairs* 15, 2 (2001), 3-28.

World Bank, "Growth, Inequality, and Poverty," in *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty* (2001), 45-59.

Recommended:

Dwight H. Perkins et al., *Economics of Development* (2001, 5th ed.), 115-148.

Robert Hunter Wade, "The Rising Inequality of World Income Distribution," *Finance and Development* 38, 4 (December 2001): 37-39.

World Bank, *World Development Report 1990*.

United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report 1997*.

Gary S. Fields, *Distribution and Development* (2001), 35-71.

Santosh Mehrotra and Richard Jolly, eds., *Development with a Human Face: Experiences in Social Achievement and Economic Growth* (1997).

Bruno M. Ravallion and Lynn Squire, *Equity and Growth in Developing Countries: Old and New Perspectives on the Policy Issues* (1996, World Bank Online).

Judith Tendler, "What Ever Happened to Poverty Alleviation?" *World Development* 17, 7 (1989): 1033-1044.

Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (2005).

WEEK 3 (1/17, 1/19): Theoretical Perspectives on Inequality

→ Conferences begin this week; this means that the lectures are now 50 minutes instead of 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Amartya Sen, "Development as Capability Expansion," in Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and A.K. Shiva Kumar, eds., *Readings in Human Development* (2003), 3-16.

Mahbub ul Haq, "The Human Development Paradigm," in Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and A.K. Shiva Kumar, eds., *Readings in Human Development* (2003), 17-34.

Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto," in Marx, *Capital, the Communist Manifesto, and Other Writings* (1932), 315-343.

R.H. Tawney, *Equality*, 19-48, 75-90.

Recommended:

Amartya Sen, *Inequality Reexamined* (1992).

Amartya Sen, *On Economic Inequality* (1997).

Charles Tilly, *Durable Inequality* (1998).

Douglas Rae, *Equalities* (1981).

T.H. Marshall, *Citizenship and Social Class, and Other Essays* (1950).

WEEK 4 (1/24, 1/26): Democracy and Inequality

Nancy Bermeo, "Does Electoral Democracy Boost Economic Equality?" *Journal of Democracy* 20, 4 (2009): 21-35.

Kurt Weyland, *Democracy without Equity: Failures of Reform in Brazil* (1996), 29-78.

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (1999), 146-159.

Joseph Wong, *Healthy Democracies: Welfare Politics in South Korea and Taiwan* (2005), 153-173.

Recommended:

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (1971), 81-104.

United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report 2002: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World* (2002).

WEEK 5 (1/31, 2/2): States, Political Parties, and Inequality

Erik Martinez Kuhonta, *The Institutional Imperative* (2011), 3-46, 167-174, 239-247.

Atul Kohli, *The State and Poverty in India: The Politics of Reform* (1987), 95-143.

Recommended:

World Bank, "Making State Institutions More Responsive to Poor People," in *World Development 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty* (2001), 99-115.

World Bank, *The East Asian Miracle: Economic Growth and Public Policy* (1993).

Atul Kohli, Chung-in Moon, and George Sorensen, eds., *States, Markets, and Just Growth* (2003).

United Nations Development Program, "The Politics of Poverty Eradication," in Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and A.V. Shiva Kumar, eds., *Readings in Human Development* (2003).

Merilee S. Grindle, "In Quest of the Political: The Political Economy of Development Policymaking," in Gerald M. Meier and Joseph E. Stiglitz, eds., *Frontiers of Development Economics* (2001), 345-380.

Evan Lieberman, *Race and Regionalism in the Politics of Taxation in Brazil and South Africa* (2003).

WEEK 6 (2/7, 2/9): States and Urban Bias

Michael Lipton, "Urban Bias and Inequality," in Mitchell A. Seligson and John T. Passe-Smith, *Development and Under-Development: The Political Economy of Global Inequality* (1998, 2nd ed.), 389-394.

Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa* (1981).

Recommended:

Ashutosh Varshney, *Democracy, Development, and the Countryside: Urban-Rural Struggles in India* (2000).

Michael Lipton, *Why Poor People Stay Poor: A Study of Urban Bias in World Development* (1976).

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations, *Reducing Disparities: Balanced Development of Urban and Rural Areas and Regions within the Countries of Asia and the Pacific* (2001), 4-42

WEEK 7 (2/14): IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Film Screening on 2/16: “Against My Will” – a documentary about honor killings; this is relevant to Week 7. Be prepared to discuss this documentary the following week.

→ No conferences this week.

WEEK 8 (2/21, 2/23): Gender and Inequality

Amartya Sen, “Many Faces of Gender Inequality,” *Frontline* 18, 22 (2001): 1-18.

Nicole Pope, *Honor Killings in the Twenty-First Century* (2012): 17-29.

Naila Kabeer, “Between Affiliation and Autonomy: Navigating Pathways of Women’s Empowerment and Gender Justice in Rural Bangladesh,” *Development and Change* 42, 2 (2011): 499-528.

Kathleen Fallon, “Transforming Women’s Citizenship Rights within an Emerging Democratic State: The Case of Ghana,” *Gender and Society* 17, 4 (2003): 525-543.

Recommended:

Amartya Sen, “Gender and Cooperative Conflicts,” in Irene Tinker, ed., *Persistent Inequalities: Women and World Development* (1990), 123-149.

Ester Boserup, *Women’s Role in Economic Development* (1970).

Carlolyn Moser, *Gender Planning and Development* (1993).

Diane Elson, ed., *Male Bias in the Development Process* (1990).

Aihwa Ong, *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia* (1987).

Judith Bruce and Daisy Dwyer, eds., *A Home Divided: Women and Income in the Third World* (1988).

Peter Hancock, “Rural Women Earning Income in Indonesian Factories: The Impact of Gender Relations,” *Gender and Development* 9, 1 (2001): 18-24.

Kyung Ae Park, “Women and Development: The Case of South Korea,” *Comparative Politics* 25, 2 (1993): 127-145.

WEEK 9 (3/7, 3/9): Gender and Microfinance

Lamia Karim, *Microfinance and its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh* (2011).
Pages TBD.

Recommended:

- S.M. Hashemi, S.R. Schuler, and A.P. Riley, "Rural Credit Programs and Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh," *World Development* 24, 4 (1996): 635-653.
Naila Kabeer, "Conflicts over Credit: Re-evaluating the Empowerment Potential of Loans to Women in Rural Bangladesh," *World Development* 29, 1 (2001): 63-84.
S.R. Khandker, *Fighting Poverty with Microcredit: Experience in Bangladesh* (1999).

WEEK 10 (3/14, 3/16): Ethnicity and Inequality

- Donald L. Horowitz, "Three Dimensions of Ethnic Politics," *World Politics* 23, 3 (1971): 232-244.
Frances Stewart, "Horizontal Inequalities: A Neglected Dimension of Development," Working Paper 1, Center for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity, CRISE, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford (2001).
Erik Martinez Kuhonta, *The Institutional Imperative* (2011), 47-100, 114-117.

Recommended:

- Milton J. Esman, "Ethnic Politics and Economic Power," *Comparative Politics* 19, 4 (1987): 395-418.
Myron Weiner, "The Political Consequences of Preferential Policies: A Comparative Perspective," *Comparative Politics* 16, 1 (1983): 35-52.
Deborah J. Yashar, *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America: The Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge* (2005).
Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, *Ethnicity and Equality* (1979).
Myron Weiner and Mary Fainsod Katzenstein, eds., *India's Preferential Policies: Migrants, the Middle Classes, and Ethnic Equality* (1981).
Donald L. Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (1985).
R.S. Milne, *Politics in Ethnically Bipolar States* (1981).

WEEK 11 (3/21, 3/23): Health and Inequality

Readings TBD.

WEEK 12 (3/28, 3/30): Environmental Justice

Film Screening on 3/30: "A Narmada Diary"

World Commission on Dams, *Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making* (November 2000), xxvii-xxxvii, 1-34, 97-133.
Erik Martinez Kuhonta, *The Institutional Imperative* (2011), 177-181.

Recommended:

World Bank, "Development and the Environment: A False Dichotomy," in *World Development Report 1992*, 25-43.
Robin Broad, "The Poor and the Environment: Friends or Foes?" *World Development* 22, 6 (1994): 811-822
Patrick McCully, *Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams* (1992), 65-100.

WEEK 13 (4/4, 4/6): Globalization and Inequality

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (2003), 3-132, 195-252.
Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization* (2004). Pages TBD.

Recommended:

Frances Stewart and Albert Berry, "Globalization, Liberalization, and Inequality: Expectations and Experience," in Andrew Hurrell and Ngaire Woods, eds., *Inequality, Globalization, and World Politics* (1999), 150-186.
Barbara Stallings, "Globalization and Liberalization: The Impact on Developing Countries," in Atul Kohli, Chung-in Moon, and George Sorensen, eds., *States, Markets, and Just Growth* (2003), 9-38.
Robert Hunter Wade, "Is Globalization Reducing Poverty and Inequality?" *World Development* 32, 4 (2004): 567-589.
Jagdish Bhagwati, *In Defense of Globalization* (2004).
Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works* (2004).
John Cavanagh and Jerry Mander, eds., *Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible* (2004).

WEEK 14 (4/11): Summation of Course

→ **No conferences this week.**

→ **Final take-home exam handed out on last day of class: 4/11.**

No readings.

Selected Suggested Further Readings by Region

Northeast Asia

William Hinton, *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village* (1966).

Jean C. Oi, *State and Peasant in Contemporary China* (1989).

Roger Goodman, Gordon White, and Huck-Ju Kwon, eds., *The East Asian Welfare Model* (1998).

Deborah J. Milly, *Poverty, Equality, and Growth: The Politics of Economic Need in Postwar Japan* (1999).

Southeast Asia

Arsenio M. Balisacan and Shigeaki Fujisaki, eds., *Causes of Poverty: Myths, Facts, and Policies* (1999).

Walden Bello, et al., *A Siamese Tragedy* (1998).

Bruce D. Missingham, *The Assembly of the Poor in Thailand* (2003).

Pasuk Phongpaichit, "Civilizing the State: State, Civil Society, and Politics in Thailand," The Wim Wertheim Lecture, Amsterdam (1999).

Jonathan Rigg, *Southeast Asia: The Human Landscape of Modernization and Development* (1997).

James C. Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance* (1986).

Benedict J. Tria Kerkvliet, *The Power of Everyday Politics: How Vietnamese Peasants Transformed National Policy* (2005).

Latin America

Douglas Chalmers et al., *The New Politics of Inequality in Latin America: Rethinking Participation and Representation* (1997).

Victor Tokman and Guillermo O'Donnell eds., *Poverty and Inequality in Latin America: Issues and New Challenges* (1998).

Christopher Abel and Colin M. Lewis, *Exclusion and Engagement: Social Policy in Latin America* (2002).

Nora Lustig, ed., *Coping with Austerity: Poverty and Inequality in Latin America* (1995).

Samuel A. Morley, *Poverty and Inequality in Latin America: The Impact of Adjustment and Recovery in the 1980s* (1995).

Susan Eva Eckstein and Timothy P. Wickham-Crowley, eds., *What Justice? Whose Justice? Fighting for Fairness in Latin America* (2003).

Kenneth M. Roberts, *Deepening Democracy: The Modern Left and Social Movements in Chile and Peru* (1998).

Barbara Stallings, *Class Conflict and Economic Development in Chile, 1958-1973* (1978).

Cathy Lisa Schneider, *Shantytown Protest in Pinochet's Chile* (1995).

David Collier, *Squatters and Oligarchs: Authoritarian Rule and Policy Change in Peru* (1976).

Charles Bergquist, *Labor in Latin America: Comparative Essays on Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, and Colombia* (1986).

Africa

Howard White and Tony Killick, *African Poverty at the Millennium* (2001).

Nicolas van De Walle, *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999* (2001).

Nicolas van De Walle and Benno Ndulu, eds., *Agenda for Africa's Economic Renewal* (1996).