Economics of Inequality

Course outline
(2013-11-19)

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1 General

This course offers an introduction to central themes in the field of economics of inequality. We will deal with both issues of how inequality impacts on the functioning of the economy, as well as with issues of why inequality arises, and we will do so using theoretical as well as empirical material.

There will be six three-hour lectures. All lectures are held in room A114, Ekonomikum at 09:15–12:00 (except for lecture 5 which takes place at 13:15–16:00).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 6, 2013</td>
<td>09:15–12:00</td>
<td>Introduction. Measuring inequality</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Fri, Nov 8, 2013</td>
<td>09:15–12:00</td>
<td>Income distribution: Concepts, facts, issues</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 13, 2013</td>
<td>09:15–12:00</td>
<td>Income distribution: Trends</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fri, Nov 15, 2013</td>
<td>09:15–12:00</td>
<td>Wealth distribution</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tue, Nov 19, 2013</td>
<td>13:15–16:00</td>
<td>Article presentations (Inequality topics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fri, Nov 22, 2013</td>
<td>09:15–12:00</td>
<td>Economic mobility</td>
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Examination consists of a written exam (75%) as well as handing in solutions to a problem set and a written review of a research article, which is also presented orally in class.

Readings are reported for each lectures (compulsory readings marked with *).
2 Lectures

2.1 Lecture 1: Introduction. Measuring inequality

Readings:
* Cowell, F. (2009), *Measuring Inequality*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Ch. 2, 3 (except 3.3-3.4), (LINK)


2.2 Lecture 2: Income distribution: Concepts, facts, issues

Readings:


### 2.3 Lecture 3: Income distribution: Trends

Readings:


Scheve, Kenneth and David Stasavage (2009), “Institutions, Partisanship, and Inequality in the Long Run”, World Politics 61(2) (LINK).


Waldenström, Daniel (2009), Lifting All Boats? The Evolution of Income and Wealth Inequality over the Path of Development, Ph.D. Dissertation, Lund University (LINK)
2.4 Lecture 4: Wealth distribution

Readings:


2.5 Lecture 5: Article presentations

Readings:

2.6 Lecture 6: Economic mobility

Readings:


