

SEEP COURSE DESCRIPTION

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|----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|----|
| Course title: | The Political Economy of Inequalities I | | | |
| Teacher(s): | Jürgen Essletzbichler, Andrea Grisold | | | |
| Course credit: | ECTS:4 | | Hours per week: 2 | |
| Semester | S1 | ▶ S2 | S3 | S4 |
| Teaching method(s): | Lectures; Seminar Discussions; Independent Reading; | | | |
| Type(s) of evaluation: | ▶ Exam | | ▶ Written report | |
| | ▶ Participation / Presentation | | ▶ Group project | |
| | Other: | Written Report; Participation in Class Discussions; | | |
| Short course description | <p>This course offers an introduction to the current literature and research on rising inequality in countries of the Global North and links the discussion to the bigger issue of social sustainability. The first part of the course explores the consequences of rising inequality for socio-economic and political sustainability and reviews the standard economic theories on the causes of rising wage and/or income inequality among individuals and households (vertical inequality). The second part of the course moves beyond the individual and considers inequality between different social groups (horizontal inequality). For this purpose theories of social stratification, a Feminist economic perspective on gender inequality and the role of institutions to shape national and regional patterns and trajectories of inequality are explored and critically evaluated.</p> <p>At the end of the course you should have a good understanding of the standard economic explanations of rising inequality, realize the importance of moving beyond individuals to social groups, appreciate the need for alternative economic and other social science approaches to make this transition from individuals to groups and link rising inequality to political counter movements (radical right populism; race riots, etc.) that may result in socially and environmentally unsustainable future development.</p> | | | |
| Topics (summary keywords) | Causes of Inequality; Consequences of Inequality; Vertical versus Horizontal Inequality; Social stratification; Gender Inequality; Institutions and Inequality; Inequality and Socio-Environmental Sustainability; | | | |
| Selected readings: | <p>There will be two to three papers for each topic students are expected to read prior to the seminars.</p> <p>General literature on inequality:</p> <p>Atkinson, A. (2015). Inequality. What can be done? Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Milanovic, B. (2016). Global Inequality. A New Approach for the Age of Globalization. Harvard University Press.</p> | | | |

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Piketty, T. (2019). Capital and Ideology. Harvard University Press.

Stiglitz, J. (2012) The Price of Inequality. Norton.

Wilkinson, R. and K. Pickett (2009) The Spirit Level

Danny Dorling has a number of books on inequality, the top 1% and the need to curb it. He is interesting because he combines demographic, health, economic, social, housing, power, environmental inequalities.

<http://www.dannydorling.org/>