

ISSS 4V86: Global Inequality and Redistribution
Spring 2013
Monday & Wednesday: 2:30pm-3:45pm, JO4.122

Instructor: Yi-Bin Chang
E-mail: yxc088100@utdallas.edu
Office: Green 3.314
Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 1-2pm, and by appointment

Description

This course provides an overview of inequality and contemporary redistributive politics in the democracies. The objective is to explain why the distribution of wealth, income and opportunities differs so much between democratic countries with similar levels of economic development. The course draws largely on literature from the field of comparative politics, economics, social policy and social psychology. Initial weeks will cover the basic ideas of poverty and inequality, measures of poverty, and redistributive arrangements. The focus of the first part of this course is on the macro-level analysis and on tracing the interactions between political institutions such as political parties and elections, social classes, and the redistributive institutions of the welfare state. Later weeks will focus on the personal-level analysis and address the effect of personal value orientations on individual beliefs or attitudes toward redistribution.

The emphasis of this course is on the understanding of poverty and inequality as well as on the determinants of redistribution. This structure is used to examine the driving forces of redistribution such as electoral competition among political parties, balance of class power, and change in welfare attitude in the democracies. Empirically, the United States and European countries are main examples used in this course, and then Latin American and East Asian countries will be brought into our discussion. It is very much an introductory course, but to fully understand, there is a fundamental level of theoretical knowledge required. We emphasize that students know exactly what is going on when they read articles or news about welfare and redistributive issues.

Student Learning Objectives

On completing this course, students will be able to:

- Acquire and build knowledge of poverty, inequality, and welfare arrangements in the real world.
- Recognize the basic assumptions, as well as strengths and weaknesses, of theories of distributive justice.
- Implement a theoretical analysis and interpret distributive outcomes in their own independent research paper.

Required texts and course materials

Texts

Alesina, Alberto and Edward Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe. A World of Difference*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Svallfors, Stefan. 2012. *Contested Welfare States: Welfare Attitudes in Europe and Beyond*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

In general you should use all the books as reference materials. If I have not indicated a reading from a book it does not mean that a topic is not covered in it. It is my expectation that you will find additional texts and resources to supplement the assigned course materials.

eLearning

eLearning is used in this class for distributing course materials (notes, assignments, articles etc) and to check your progress in the class. You can access the course page at <http://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Additional information about how to use eLearning is available at this site as well. You will need a UTD net-id to access this site. You are responsible for announcements made through eLearning.

Grading, Assignments, and Course Policies

Grading

There will be approximately two essays, two exams, an analytical paper, and presentation. These graded assignments compose the following percentages of your final grade:

- Essays: 20%
- Exams: 40%
- Analytical Paper: 25%
- Presentation: 15%

Students are required to take a midterm and a final examination in class. The exams are close-note, close-book.

Late essays and papers will be penalized 10 points per day. Papers or essays submitted via e-mail will be considered received by the date and time stamp on the e-mail received in my e-mail inbox.

My preference is to not allow incompletes in this course, since you need most of the material completed for later graduation or advanced study. If you believe you will need to take an incomplete you (1) must follow university policy and (2) should contact me as soon as practicable (i.e., not the week of the final exam or the day before the final paper is due).

Grades are based on the standard grading scale:

A = 100-93	B+ = 89.9-84	C+ = 71.9-66	D+ = 59.9-57
A- = 90-92.9	B = 83.9-78	C = 65.9-64	D = 56.9-54
	B- = 77.9-72	C- = 63.9-60	D- = 53.9-50

F = Below 50.

Essays

The essays will typically involve summarizing and critically evaluating the required or suggest courses reading in 4 (double-spaced) pages in length. Readings that you choose to summarize and criticize should be based on a single topic or related topics. This will count a total of 20% toward the total course grade. The first half of the essay should be a concise summary of the article and its conclusion; the second half should be your analysis of the author's arguments.

Analytical Paper

You are required to write a paper analyzing a redistribution issue or a topic related to this course. The paper should be 12-15 double-spaced pages, and will count for 25% of the total course grade. The paper you write should be based on your own research and interests. There is no requirement to use a particular dataset or technique. However, the paper should be original.

To encourage student to begin working on the paper early in the semester, you will be required to submit a topic statement (one page, due February 13) and an annotated bibliography (due March 20). The final paper will be due on May 4, 2013.

Presentation

Each student will make a short class presentation on their paper in the end of the course. You have 15-20 minutes for a presentation. A handout of your paper/presentation needs to be distributed in class before you start your presentation.

Attendance

It should go without saying that in a class of this size your attendance is easily noted and therefore required. If you are unable to make a class or will be late, advise the instructor as far in advance as possible.

Course Policies

The following rules apply in class:

- Turn off your cell phone. "Off" means that it does not ring OR vibrate.
- Be polite and courteous to your fellow students.
- Raise your hand when you want to be recognized to answer or ask a question.
- Class starts at 2:30pm. Not 2:45. Be here on time. Respect my time and I will respect yours.
- Do not fall asleep. Bring coffee if you need it.
- This syllabus is not a contract. It is subject to change at my discretion.

Course Outline

Part I: Introduction to Poverty

January 14 **Introduction to the Course**

January 16 **Poverty: Overview**

Required

Haveman, Robert. 2009. "What Does It Mean to Be Poor in a Rich Society?" In *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies*, edited by Maria Cancian and Sheldon Danziger. NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 387-408.

Suggested

Alkire, Sabina and Maria Emma Santos. 2010. "Multidimensional Poverty Index." *The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)*, (July). Pp. 1-8.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 2008. "Nickel-and-Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America." In *Social Stratification*, edited by David B. Grusky. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 317-326.

January 21 **No Class. Martin Luther King Day**

January 23 **How Much Poverty Is There?**

Required

Smeeding, Timothy M. 2008. "Poverty, Work, and Policy: The United States in Comparative Perspective." In *Social Stratification*, edited by David B. Grusky. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 327-339.

Suggested

Meyer, Daniel R. and Geoffrey L. Wallace. 2009. "Poverty Levels and Trends in Comparative Perspective." In *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies*, edited by Maria Cancian and Sheldon Danziger. NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 35-62.

January 28 **Sources of Poverty: Jobless**

Required

Wilson, W. Julius. 2008. "Jobless Poverty: A New Form of Social Dislocation in the Inner-City Ghetto." In *Social Stratification*, edited by David B. Grusky. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 340-349.

Suggested

Blank, Rebecca M. 2009. "Economic Change and the Structure of Opportunity for Less-Skilled Workers." In *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies*, edited by Maria Cancian and Sheldon Danziger. NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 63-91.

January 30

Sources of Poverty: Racial Segregation

Required

Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. 2008. "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass." In *Social Stratification*, edited by David B. Grusky. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 349-359.

Suggested

Alesina, Alberto, and Edward L. Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. Oxford: the Oxford University Press, pp. 133-181.

February 4

Sources of Poverty: Housing Segregation

Required

Massey, Douglass S. 2008. "Origins of Economic Disparities: The Historical Role of Housing Segregation." In *Segregation: The Rising Costs for America*, edited by James H. Carr and Nandinee K. Jutty. NY: Routledge, 39-80.

Suggested

Kleit, R. Garshick. 2008. "Neighborhood Segregation, Personal Networks, and Access to Social Resources." In *Segregation: The Rising Costs for America*, edited by James H. Carr and Nandinee K. Jutty. NY: Routledge, 237-260.

Rebley, Anne R. and Narayan Sastry. 2008. "Neighborhoods, Poverty, and Children's Well-Being." In *Social Stratification*, edited by David B. Grusky. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 360-371.

Part II: Redistributive Theories

February 6

Anti-Poverty Institutions: the Case of the United States

Required

Alesina, Alberto, and Edward L. Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. Oxford: the Oxford University Press, pp. 15-54.

Suggested

Clark-Kauffman, Elizabeth, Greg J. Duncan, and Pamela Morris. 2008. "How Welfare Policies Affect Child and Adolescent Achievement." In *Social Stratification*, edited by David B. Grusky. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 400-407.

February 11 Redistributive Outcomes: Economic Explanations

Required

Alesina, Alberto, and Edward L. Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. Oxford: the Oxford University Press, pp. 55-76.

Suggested

TBD

February 13 Redistributive Outcomes: Democratic Institutions (1)

Required

Meltzer, Allan H., and Scott F. Richard. 1981. "A Rational Theory of the Size of Government" *Journal of Political Economy* 89(5) pp914-27.

Suggested

Franco, Alvaro, Carlos Alvarez-Dardet, and Maria Teresa Ruiz. 2004. "Effect of Democracy on Health: Ecological Study." *BMJ* 329 pp1421-4.

Ghobarah, Hazem Adam, Paul Huth, and Bruce Russett. 2004. "Comparative Public Health: The Political Economy of Human Misery and Well-Being." *International Studies Quarterly* 48, pp73-94.

* *Paper Topic Statement Due*

February 18 Redistributive Outcomes: Democratic Institutions (2)

Required

Iversen, Torben, and David Soskice. 2006. "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More Than Others" *American Political Science Review* 100(2), pp165-181.

Suggested

Ross, Michael. 2006. "Is Democracy Good for the Poor?" *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(4), pp. 860-874.

Alesina, Alberto, and Edward L. Glaeser. 2004. *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*. Oxford: the Oxford University Press, pp. 77-93.

Lake, David A. and Matthew A. Baum. 2001. "The Invisible Hand of Democracy: Political Control and the Provision of Public Services." *Comparative Political Studies* 34(6) pp.587-621.

February 20 Redistributive Outcomes: Power Resources Approach (1)

Required

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 9-34.

Suggested

Korpi, Walter. 1985. "Power Resources Approach vs. Action and Conflict: On Causal and Intentional Explanations in the Study of Power," *Sociological Theory*, 3:32-45.

Korpi, Walter. 1989. "Power, Politics, and State Autonomy in the Development of Social Citizenship: Social Rights During Sickness in Eighteen OECD Countries Since 1930," *American Sociological Review*, 54:3 (Jun.), pp. 309-328.

February 25 Redistributive Outcomes: Power Resources Approach (2)

Required

Hicks, Alexander. 1999. *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism: A Century of Income Security Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Suggested

Hicks, Alexander, and Duane H. Swank. 1992. "Politics, institutions, and Welfare Spending in Industrialized Democracies, 1960-82," *American Political Science Review*, 86:3, 658-674.

February 27 Redistributive Outcomes: Power Resources Approach (3)

Required

Huber, Evelyne, and John D. Stephens. 2001. *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State: Parties and Politics in Global Markets*. Chicago and London: the University of Chicago Press, 39-84.

Suggested

TBD

March 4 Exam Review Session

March 6 Mid-term Exam

March 11 & 13 No Class. Spring Break

Part III: Empirical Evidence

March 18 Poverty and Distributional Outcomes in Mexico

Required

Teichman, Judith. 2012. *Social Forces and States*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 73-96.

Suggested

TBD

March 20 Poverty and Distributional Outcomes in Chile

Required

Teichman, Judith. 2012. *Social Forces and States*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 49-72.

Suggested

TBD

** Annotated Bibliography Due*

March 25 Poverty and Distributional Outcomes in South Korea

Required

Teichman, Judith. 2012. *Social Forces and States*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 26-48.

Suggested

TBD

Part IV: Personal Beliefs or Attitudes toward Redistribution

March 27 Do the Poor Necessarily Support Redistribution?

Required

Hochschild, Jennifer. 1981. *What's Fair?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 46-83.

Suggested

Bartels, Larry M. 2005. "Homer Gets a Tax Cut: Inequality and Public Policy in the American Mind." *Perspectives on Politics* 3(1): 15-31.

April 1 Micro-justice and Macro-justice

Required

Brickman, Philip, Robert Folger, Erica Goode, and Yaacov Schul. 1981. "Microjustice and Macrojustice." In Melvin J. Lerner and Sally C. Lerner, eds., *The Justice Motive in Social Behavior*. New York: Plenum Press, 173-201.

Suggested

Feldman, Stanley. 1982. "Economic Self-Interest and Political Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science*, 26(3): 446-466.

McCarty, John A. and L. J. Shrum. 2001. "The Influence of Individualism, Collectivism, and Locus of Control on Environmental Beliefs and Behavior." *Journal of Public Policy and Marketing*, 20(1):93-104.

April 3 Welfare Performance and Welfare Support

Required

Van Oorschot, Wim, and Bart Meuleman. 2012. "Welfare Performance and Welfare Support." In *Contested Welfare States: Welfare Attitudes in Europe and Beyond*, edited by Stefan Svallfors. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 25-57.

Suggested

TBD

April 8 Attitudes among High-Risk Groups

Required

Blomberg, Helena, Johanna Kallio, Olli Kangas, Christian Kroll, and Mikko Niemela. 2012. "Attitudes among High-Risk Groups." In *Contested Welfare States: Welfare Attitudes in Europe and Beyond*, edited by Stefan Svallfors. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 58-80.

Suggested

TBD

April 10 Attitudes toward Government Responsibilities

Required

Svallfors, Stefan, Joakim Kulin, and Annette Schnabel. 2012. "Age, Class, and Attitudes toward Government Responsibilities." In *Contested Welfare States: Welfare*

Attitudes in Europe and Beyond, edited by Stefan Svallfors. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 158-192.

Suggested

TBD

April 15 Change in Welfare Attitudes: the United States Case

Required

Brooks, Clem. 2012. "Framing Theory, Welfare Attitudes, and the United States Case."
In *Contested Welfare States: Welfare Attitudes in Europe and Beyond*, edited by
Stefan Svallfors. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 193-221.

Suggested

TBD

Part V: Course Review

April 17 Review: Courses of Poverty

April 22 Review: Redistributive Theories

April 24 Review: Welfare Attitudes

Part VI: Presentation

April 29 Presentation of Papers

May 1 Presentation of Papers

May 6 Exam Review Session

May 8 Final Exam