

Boston College
Department of Economics

Econ 3317.01-.02 – Economics of Inequality
Campion 200

Professor Geoff Sanzenbacher
Day/Time: MW 4:30pm, 6:00pm

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Office Hours: 204 Hovey House, 4:00-5:00pm Friday or by Appointment.

Clicker Device: Should be purchased, will be used frequently in class.

Economics 317 is designed to teach about the structural economic factors that result in or lead to inequality in economic outcomes and opportunity. The course will offer a distinction between inequality in opportunity and inequality in outcomes and will discuss policies currently in place and those that have been suggested to attempt to alleviate these inequalities.

Class Etiquette: Please refrain from using computers during class. If you would like to have copies of the slides, you can print them from online prior to class. I will post the slides as PPTs on Canvas prior to class and I recommend printing four slides per sheet.

Attendance and participation (5 percent of grade): We are using Iclicker, which will help me keep track of attendance and participation. You can miss up to three classes without excuse. The Iclicker needs to be functional by **September 12th, 2018**. After three misses there is a 0.5 percentage point deduction per class missed unless excused. **You do not need to e-mail me if you miss three or fewer classes.** On your fourth class or later, send an e-mail with “Request for Excused Absence” as the subject and provide a reason in the body of the e-mail, I will let you know if excused or not.

Course Organization and Expectations

Lectures: There are two lectures per week most weeks, save for holidays (See schedule below). There is 5 percent attendance and participation grade for the course, attendance is also required to do well on the exam and papers.

Readings: I will be providing an important academic article online each class along with discussion questions. You will be required to know answers to discussion questions for the Midterm and Final Quiz.

Integrity: Please familiarize yourself with the “Academic Integrity” section of the Boston College Catalog, which is also available online.

Canvas: I will be using Canvas to provide you with a variety of information, including handouts I will create, any assignments, and I will post the article readings for the class there.

In conclusion, let me say welcome to the course! Economics is an exciting subject area that will help you better understand the world you live in. Please keep up with current events and feel free to ask me about them in class.

Good luck! Here is a brief outline of the course and reading assignments.

Date

Topic

August 27th

Introduction
What do we mean by inequality?

Part I – Inequality of Economic Outcomes

August 29th

Defining and measuring inequality

Sources of Cross-Sectional Inequality

September 3rd

No Class – Labor Day

September 5th

No Class – Geoff Travel for Auto-IRA

Date

Topic

September 10th

Labor Supply and Demand

September 12th (Iclicker Registered)

Compensating Differentials

September 17th

Finishing Compensating Differentials
Introduction to Human Capital

September 19th

A model of Human Capital
Human Capital and Inequality

September 24th

Discrimination in Markets

September 26th

Discrimination in Markets (cont.)

October 1st

Marriage and Inequality

October 3rd

Finishing marriage and inequality
Inequality in employment

October 8th

No Class – Fall Break

October 10th

Crime and Inequality

Changes in Inequality over Time

October 15th

Unions and inequality

Date**Topic**November 19thEquality of opportunity vs. reality (cont.)
An international comparison**November 21st****No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday****Part III – Economic Policy towards Inequality**November 26th

Policy towards the Young/Nutrition

November 28th

Educational Policy/Student Loans

December 3rd

Welfare Reform/"Workfare"

December 5th

Healthcare and Social Security

December 10th

Finishing up Policy/Political Inequality

Please Note: This schedule is an outline for the course and is subject to change as I feel necessary or because of inclement weather. Any changes will be noted by me during class.