



Thematic Course

Academic Year	2024-2025
Subject	Inequality
Instructor	Vincenzo Prete
Course Description	<p>Inequality continues to persist across the world, within and among countries, threatening long-term social and economic development as well as poverty reduction.</p> <p>The objective of this course is to introduce students to theoretical and empirical approaches for the analysis of economic inequality.</p> <p>The course is organized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lecture 1 (h. 4): “<i>Inequality of what?</i>” and “<i>What can be done?</i>”- different notions of inequality that are intertwined with micro- and macroeconomic analysis.- Lecture 2 (h. 4): “<i>Fair and unfair inequality</i>” – definition of inequality of opportunity, and empirical applications.- Lecture 3 (h. 2): “<i>Social mobility</i>” – theoretical definition and empirical evidence.
Learning Objectives	Students completing this course should be familiar with i) the basic principles behind the measurement of inequality and ii) the most important data sources for analyzing inequality.
Suggested Readings	<p>Detailed references for each topic and lectures material will be provided in class. Students can have a broad overview of research in inequality in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stiglitz J. E. (2013). The price of inequality.- Piketty T. (2014). The Capital in the XXI century.- Atkinson A. (2015). Inequality: what can be done?- Lambert P. J. (2001). The distribution and redistribution of income. <p>and at the following links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- https://opportunityinsights.org (Harvard-based lab on spatial inequality in US)- https://wid.world (PSE-based database about trends in income inequality)- https://inequality.stanford.edu (Stanford-based inequality lab)- https://geom.ecineq.org/world-view/ (Global Estimates of Opportunity and Mobility)
Teaching method	Theory classes
Course Activity (hrs)	10
Assessment Method	Report and a presentation on a scientific paper and/or a dataset as agreed with the instructor.
Calendar	April/May 2025
Contact	vincenzo.prete@unipa.it