

ECON 3240 Poverty, Inequality and Mobility in a Global Economy*(aka World Poverty and Economic Development)*

Instructor: Darryl McLeod Office Hours: Monday/Thursday 5:15-6:15pm Wednesday 9:30pm E-527 Dealy 718 817-0063 or 914 661-6998 please confirm appointments by email mcleod@fordham.edu **TA:** Meshry Etolba Office hours: M/Th 2:45-3:45pm E-503 Dealy For required readings, homework questions see the course calendar: see Blackboard and turnitin.com class ID [9315874](#) Password: [Kiara](#) and the [class calendar](#).

Course Description: Inequality is rising in the United States but falling in the world as a whole. Poverty remains stubbornly high in many OECD countries even as it falls rapidly in developing countries: Africa, Asia and Latin America. Growth in rich countries slowed after 2008, but Asia and Africa continued rapid growth. A new Asia, African and Latin American emerges, as America's middle class struggles post 2000. A major theme of this course is what drives these global trends in poverty and inequality. Are the poor in Asia and China gaining at the expense of the American middle class? A 2nd major theme is the efficacy of redistribution. Does inequality harm or help reduce poverty? What obligation or interest do the very rich and middle class have in helping the poor? To begin answering these questions we start with foreign aid to Africa, starting with PEPFAR and the recent international effort to eradicate the Ebola virus in West Africa. Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the 21st century* argues rising inequality makes redistribution via taxes on wealth inevitable. The course's final theme is mobility: social and geographic. To what extent is the *force majeure* of rising women's agency and demands for racial equality impact inequality? How can we create ladders (and avoid chutes) to reduce poverty and inequality globally and in the United States? Single parents and teen births for example seem to be a chute with race and gender implications. What can be done to help single parents (hint: MTV)?

Course Requirements: Most readings and videos for this course are available via the course calendar/webpage and/or on Blackboard Please check the course calendar frequently for updates and news related to the course. Reading and class attendance matter. Use the discussion and quiz review questions to focus your reading. There will be 3-4 quizzes previewing the midterm (both 20-25 points each) and the final exam (40 points).

An optional Paper or case study or class presentation can be used to make up for a missed quiz or raise your midterm grade (there will be no makeup quizzes). Written assignments required nor not should employ APA format references (author, date). Papers, essays and HW answers should apply course readings for videos to the issue at hand, quotes and copied graphics are encouraged (with sources). An EC paper for example should include 1-2 pages summarizing a recent lecture, film, book or article your attended/read/watched; 1-2 pages relating this material to specific course readings, lectures or videos ending with 1-2 pages summarizing your own views of this lecture, book, film or article. It is best to get the "not required" reading/film/lecture pre-approved. Watching Selma for example and relating it the ascendance/convergence of the South and/or current racial divisions in the U.S. is an example of a EC paper topic. Generally, the paper assignment is done after the midterm but before the last three weeks of the course (the Easter break more or less).

Required books: see all required and recommended books here, with covers and cost (all required \$40-50).

* William Julius Wilson (2010). *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*. W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN 0393337631. \$10 on Kindle, \$4.75 used.

*World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2014/2015: Ending Poverty & Sharing Prosperity* 1-4648-0336-9 [PDF](#)

* Kristof, N & C. WuDunn (2014). *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*. Knopf. ISBN 978-0385349918. \$10 on Kindle, \$12 used.

*Banerjee, A. & Esther Duflo *Poor Economics*. (2011). Public Affairs. 1610390934. \$10 on Kindle.

**The Bottom Billion*. Collier, Paul (2008). Oxford University Press. ISBN 195373383. \$7 on Kindle, \$4 used.

**Capital in the 21st century*. Thomas Piketty (2014) Harvard University Press ISBN 1491534656 (\$23 to buy or free for 30 days with Kindle Unlimited as is this [excerpt from the introduction](#) or \$11 to rent from chegg.com.

Recommended (required excerpts available online)

Deaton, Angus (2013) *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 0691153544. \$10 Kindle, \$13 used, and \$5 rental.

Moyo, Dambasi (2009) *Dead Aid*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. ISBN 0374532125. \$10 on Kindle, \$4 used.

Chang, Leslie (2009) *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* Chang, Leslie (2009). Spiegel & Grau. 0385520182. \$10 on Kindle, \$4 used.

Acemoglu & Robinson (2012). *Why nations fail: the origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*. Crown Business. ISBN 0307719227. \$10 Kindle, \$10 used.

Sawhill, Isabel (2014). *Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage*. 0815726357. \$13 Kindle, \$19 used.

Sachs, Jeffrey (2005). *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. Penguin Press. ISBN 0143036580. \$11 on Kindle, 0.1\$ used.

Ellwood, David (1988) *Poor Support*, Basic Books, New York (free). *Ananya Roy (2010) Poverty Capital Routledge, 978-0-415-87673-5* Collier, Paul (2010) *The Plundered Planet*, Oxford Univ Press, [199752893\(\\$11 paper, \\$10 Kindle\)](#)

Kristof, N and Sheryl WuDunn (2011) *Half the Sky*, Vintage, [0307387097](#)

Topics Lectures: Poverty and Inequality in developing Countries

January 12-15th Lecture 1: Trends in Global Poverty, Inequality and Mobility
Case Study: Ebola and Aid to Africa: from Live Aid to Dead Aid

January 22nd Lecture 2: Trends in U.S. Poverty, inequality
Case Study: Selma and the Rise of South

January 26-29th Lecture 3: Measures of Poverty and Inequality
Case Study: The Gatsby Curve, race and single parents

February 2-5th Lecture 4: Globalization, Poverty and inequality
Case Study: Nike in Indonesia and Apple/Foxconn in China

February 9-12th Lecture 5: Green Revolutions, Population and Development Piketty hypothesis
Case Study: the greatest academic mistake ever made (Deaton, 2013)

February 23-26th Lecture 6: Health and Development: making the MDGS
Case Study: The role of NGOs

March 2-5th Lecture 7: NGOs Social Entrepreneurship Bottom up Strategies
Case Study: Microfinance and Remittances

March 9th Lecture 8: Aid vs. Trade Institutions, and Security
Case Study: Post Conflict Recovery in MENA and Africa

March 12th Midterm Exam

March 16-19th Spring Break

Poverty and Inequality in the United States

March 23-26th Lecture 9: U.S Poverty, has the war on poverty been lost?
Case Study: Promise zones and the Harlem Children Zone

March 30th Lecture 10: Homelessness and severe Poverty in New York

April 2-6th Easter Break

April 9-13th Lecture 11: The Clinton Welfare Reform
Case Study: Education, work and welfare, Creating Mobility for poor families

April 16-20th Lecture 12: Poverty During the Great Recession: the food stamp president?
Case Study: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

April 23-27th Lecture 13: Sustainable Development Goals in the Chinese Century
Case Study: Africa, Aid vs. Trade vs. Immigration

May 7th Final Exam Monday 1:30 pm