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**Topics in the Economics of Poverty and Inequality**

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本科生    硕士生    博士生

Undergraduate    Master    Doctoral student

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English

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Introductory Microeconomics

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Lectures, Class Discussions

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(1) 出勤考核与课堂参与占 30%； Presence and participation 40%  
(2) Assignments 20%  
(3) 期末考试占40%。考试方式为开卷。Final Examination 40%

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2 credits

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Sean Sylvia is an Assistant Professor in the School of Economics at the Renmin University of China where he joined the faculty in 2014. He is an affiliate of the Rural Education Action Program (REAP), the leading impact evaluation organization working in China. He has lead or been involved in more than 10 randomized evaluations in the areas of health and education. His research has been published in leading journals including the British Medical Journal, Health Affairs, Health Policy and Planning, Economic Development and Cultural Change and the Economics of Education Review.

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This course will be a survey of topics in poverty and inequality from an economic (and sometimes philosophical) point of view. Lectures will not teach formal (mathematical) theory but instead introduce economic concepts related to poverty and inequality through specific examples. We will draw on research and case studies from throughout the world (in China, other developing countries and developed countries) but will focus on the Chinese context. In addition to lectures, significant class time will be devoted to class discussions. The first part of the course will cover the causes and consequences of poverty and how poverty and inequality are measured. The second part of the course will focus on specific types and causes of inequality. The third part will turn to the role of public policy.

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(1) Introduction   
(2) Causes and Consequences of Poverty   
(3) Poverty and Inequality   
(4) Inequality Measures    
(5) Economic Growth and Inequality   
(6) Institutions and Inequality   
(7) Inequality and Incentives  
(8) Intergenerational Mobility  
(9) Inequality in Education and Health   
(10) Discrimination in Labor Markets  
(11) Public Policy and Inequality

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None required.

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Readings will draw from the following (Note: Course Materials will also include other forms of media):  
  
Wolff, Edward. “Poverty and Income Distribution” Wiley-Blackwell, 2nd Ed., 2009  
Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. “Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty” Public Affairs, 2012.  
Li, Shi, Hiroshi Sato and Terry Sicular (eds) “Rising Inequality in China” 2013.  
Fan, Shenggen, Ravi Kanubar, and Xiaobo Zhang (eds) “Regional Inequality in China: Trends Explanations and Policy Responses” 2009.  
Piketty, Thomas and Emmanuel Saez, “Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998,” Quarterly Journal of Economics 118 (February, 2003) 1: 1-39.  
Milanovic, Branko. 2014. "The Return of "Patrimonial Capitalism": A Review of Thomas Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century." Journal of Economic Literature, 52(2): 519-34  
Fryer, Roland and Steve Levitt, (2006). "The Black-White Test Score Gap  
Through Third Grade" American Law and Economics Review 8: 249-281.  
Fryer, Roland and Will Dobbie. (2011). “Are High-Quality Schools Enough to  
Increase Achievement Among the Poor? Evidence from the Harlem  
Children’s Zone” American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.  
Kennan, John. (1995). “The Elusive Effects of Minimum Wages.” Journal of  
Economic Literature 33:1949-1965  
Bertrand, Marianne and Sendhil Mullainathan. (2004). “Are Emily and Greg  
More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor  
Market Discrimination.” The American Economic Review 94(4): 991-1013.  
Is the United States Still a Land of Opportunity? Recent Trends in Intergenerational Mobility Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, and Nick Turner American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings 104(5): 141-147, 2014.

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