

Academic Year	2021-2022
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 in two parts aimed at addressing two key research questions: the first addressed by Amartya Sen, is “<i>Inequality of what?</i>”; the second question, that relates with the lifelong research of Tony Atkinson, is “<i>What can be done?</i>”</p> <p>The first part focuses on different notions of inequality that are intertwined with micro- and macroeconomic analysis: inequality of income, inequality across the life-cycle, inequality across and within groups (such as cohorts, generations, regions, families, genders, skills, human capital). The second part of the course will move from the analysis of distributions to that of redistribution of income or of endowments. The theory of (optimal) redistribution will be reviewed, drawing distinctions between implementation and expected effects on inequality of taxation and of targeted and universal (in kind and in cash) transfers.</p>
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)
Course Activity (hrs)	10
Assessment Method	Report and a presentation on a scientific paper and/or a dataset as agreed with the instructor.
Calendar	May/June 2022
Contact	vincenzo.prete@unipa.it