

Handbook Chapters Proposal: Econ 350, Life Cycle Dynamics: The Origins & Consequences of Inequality in Capabilities

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Abstract

This document proposes a set of Handbook Chapters that can be used as basic readings for Econ 350.

Topics Covered by Lectures

1. The Dimensions of Inequality and Social Mobility
 - (a) Basic Facts and Trends
 - (b) Prices, Endowments, and Shocks
 - (c) Skills
 - (d) Transfers and Taxes
 - (e) The Role of Family and Policy on Endowments
 - (f) What Should Inequality Be
 - (g) Separating Inequality from Social Mobility

Basic Reading: [OECD \(2011\)](#).

2. Education and Inequality
 - (a) Causal Inference and Instrumental Variables
 - (b) Structural Models
 - (c) Evidence
 - (d) The Role of Capabilities as a Broader Notion of Skills
 - (e) The Role of Credit Constraints

Basic Reading: [Heckman et al. \(2006\)](#).

3. Shocks and Uncertainty

- (a) Internal and External Variability
- (b) Modeling Uncertainty

Basic Reading: [Meghir and Pistaferri \(2011\)](#).

4. The Dynamics of Skill Formation

- (a) B.P. + Technology / Adult
- (b) The Creation of Initial Conditions

Basic Reading: [Acemoglu et al. \(2011\)](#).

5. Models and Methods for the Study of Family Influence

Basic Reading: [Bjorklund and Salvanes \(2011\)](#); [Fernandez \(2010\)](#).

6. Social Mobility: Determinants and Models

Basic Reading: [Black and Devereux \(2011\)](#).

7. Econometric Methods and the Labor Market

Basic Reading: [French and Taber \(2011\)](#).

8. Genes and Environments

Basic Reading: [Sacerdote \(2010\)](#); [Almlund et al. \(2011\)](#).

9. Health: Life-Cycle Origins and Determinants

Basic Reading: [Cawley and Ruhm \(2010\)](#).

10. Summary

References

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