

UCLA - Econ 19 - Fall 2018 - Geerolf

The Economics of Superstars

This website contains class material for the *Fiat Lux* class “The Economics of Superstars” (Econ 19) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The syllabus for the class is available here:

Syllabus. pdf / html

The only requirement is that you should read the following piece before classes start, which we shall discuss during Lecture 1:

Rosen, Sherwin. “The Economics of Superstars.” *The American Scholar* 52, no. 4 (1983): 449–60.

We will also do some “hands on” web scrapping in the class, during Week 2, in order to get a feel for the mathematics of the economics of superstars, and Pareto Distributions in particular. We will be using Google Sheets, as well as R Statistical Software. No prior knowledge of Google Sheets, or R Statistical Software, is a prerequisite to take this class. However, you should have some willingness to learn these tools. The instructions to download R statistical software are available below.

Intro to R. pdf / html

Finally, you will be presenting one paper, by groups of 2 or 3 (depending on the number of students in the class), during the last two lectures. These papers all deal with topics related to inequality and the economic of superstars. The list of papers is available below.

List of papers. pdf / html

Courses

Course 1. pdf / html.

Course 2. pdf / html. Spreadsheet. web / ods / xlsx.

Course 3. pdf / html. Spreadsheet. web / ods / xlsx.

Readings

Sherwin Rosen. “The Economics of Superstars.” *The American Scholar* 52, no. 4 (1983): 449–60.

Kenneth Rogoff. “Public Applauds Huge Salaries for Sports Stars - while Business Stars Get Abuse.” *The Guardian*. March 2, 2012.

Alan B. Krueger. “Land of Hope and Dreams: Rock and Roll, Economics, and Rebuilding the Middle Class. Remarks at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.” June 12, 2013.

Paul Krugman. “Trade and Inequality, Revisited.” *Vox EU*. June 15, 2007.

Press articles

Eduardo Porter. “How Superstars’ Pay Stifles Everyone Else.” *New York Times*. December 26, 2010.

John Cassidy. “Forces of Divergence.” *New Yorker*. March 31, 2014.

Lizzie Widdicombe. “The Programmer’s Price.” *New Yorker*. November 24, 2014.