

**ECONOMICS 491
ECONOMICS OF INEQUALITY
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL 2018**

Bexell Hall, Room 103
MW 8:00–9:50AM (4 Credits)

Instructor: Michael Jerman

Contact Information:

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Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday 10:30–11:30AM

Wednesday 2:30–3:30PM

Course Description: An analysis of economic inequality. Describing and measuring inequality, historical and current trends in inequality, causes and consequences of inequality, and policy implications.

Student Learning Outcomes: Student outcomes will be measured by performance on quizzes and exams.

- Recognize economic inequality along various dimensions
- Describe inequality from a normative perspective
- Identify the causes and consequences of inequality
- Predict how inequality will evolve in the future
- Analyze policy designed to reduce inequality

Prerequisites: The prerequisites for this course are ECON 311 or ECON 411.

Course Credits: This four-credit course combines 40 hours of lecture with approximately 40 to 80 hours of outside student participation.

Canvas: All announcements, assignments, and grades will be will be posted on Canvas (canvas.oregonstate.edu). This is the official website for the course, and you will be responsible for any and all information that is posted there. Therefore if you have any difficulties accessing Canvas it is imperative that you resolve them as quickly as possible by contacting the Canvas support at canvas@oregonstate.edu.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. Weekly readings will be posted on Canvas.

Attendance: Your grade will not formally depend on your attendance during the lectures, but you will be responsible for everything that is discussed in class. As a general rule you should NOT expect, slides, notes, or other materials to be made available outside of class.

Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments due at the beginning of class each Monday. The homework will be posted to Canvas on Wednesday evenings. You are encouraged to work together in groups, but each person must submit their own assignment.

Exams: The one hour, fifty minute midterm examination is scheduled for Wednesday, 10/22. The comprehensive final examination is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/4 at 2:00PM. A non-graphing calculator is permitted for each exam.

Make-up and late quiz policy: There will be no make-up exams or quizzes in this course. If the midterm exam is missed due to a *documented* emergency, the weight of the exam will be moved to the final.

Grades: Your grade will be calculated based on the following weights:

Homework: 30%
Midterm: 30%
Final: 40%

The *minimum* letter grade that you will receive based on your weighted total of points earned is given below:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Student Conduct: You are expected to adhere to the university's Code of Student Conduct, which is available at the following website:

http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/final_code_of_student_conduct_updated_1_8_18.pdf

At a minimum, any incidence of academic misconduct (as defined by the above code) will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1	Introduction and measurement
Week 2	Normative theory
Week 3	US income inequality
Week 4	The top 1% and wealth inequality
Week 5	Piketty's <i>Capital</i>
Week 6	Labor market polarization
Week 7	Equality of opportunity
Week 8	Race and gender
Week 9	Growth and international inequality
Week 10	Policy