

AEM 4551/CRP 6490/SOC 4450
Comparative Perspectives in Poverty Reduction Policy

Spring 2010

Mon/Wed 2:55-4:10 PM

146 Myron Taylor Hall (Institute for Social Science conference room)

(Directions to the Institute for Social Sciences in Myron Taylor Hall can be found at:

<http://www.socialsciences.cornell.edu/about.html#Dir>)

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TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Graduate TA: Hope Michelson (hcm23@cornell.edu)

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course aims to build student awareness and understanding of facts about poverty domestically and internationally and of policies intended to reduce the incidence and persistence of poverty. The course exposes students to varied disciplinary and geographic perspectives on issues of poverty dynamics and socioeconomic mobility and to the evidence on a range of policy interventions. Sponsored by the Institute for the Social Sciences 2008-11 theme project on Persistent Poverty and Upward Mobility (<http://socialsciences.cornell.edu/0811/desc.html>).

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Open to juniors, seniors and graduate students by application. By January 10, submit a one page statement of interest to Profs. Barrett and Christopherson, identifying prior relevant academic training and personal and/or professional experience that will enable contributions to the seminar and prepare the student to fully engage with the course material. All applicants will be notified of their status by January 18.

READINGS:

The readings are posted on the course Blackboard site. The Iceland book is available through the Campus Store.

HOME PAGE:

The course home page is on Blackboard. The page provides you with announcements, information about the course, links to the syllabus, lecture notes, useful web sites, and all the usual, good things available on Blackboard sites. We strongly recommend that you check the course web site frequently during the semester, especially for announcements prior to class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

We strictly enforce Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity. We strongly encourage you to discuss course material with your classmates outside of class. However, the written work you turn in and the oral presentations you make must be entirely your own. At the minimum, a violation of the code of academic integrity will result in a failing course grade.

GRADES AND POINT ALLOCATION:

There is no "curve" in this class; you are not competing against your classmates.

<u>Exercise</u>	<u>Points</u>
Weekly discussion questions	50%
Course term paper	50%

There are no examinations in this course.

No extensions are granted. Late or missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Each week, students will be expected to reflect on the readings and lecture presented on Wednesday and prepare a set of questions for discussion the following Monday. These questions should be posted to the course Blackboard site by Sunday at 4pm so that everyone can review the questions before the Monday discussion. The questions should be in short paragraph form and provide a context for how and why the question emerges from the lecture and readings. Examples of question format will be provided on the blackboard site. Questions will be graded for the understanding they evince of the readings and lecture and for their contribution to stimulating a useful group discussion in class.

TERM PAPER:

Each student will be required to write a 10-20 page research paper. The paper should take the form of a critical, interpretive literature review focused on a topic related to the course. A list of possible topics will be provided but each student will work out a topic with one of the instructors. The paper will be graded on the thoughtfulness and comprehensiveness of the literature review and whether it illuminates key questions in the topical area. Papers will also be graded on the overall quality of the written product. Students with writing problems are urged to seek help from the Cornell Writing Center in order to improve the quality of their papers. The paper will be due May 14.

OFFICE HOURS:

Prof. Barrett's spring 2010 office hours are Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM in 158B Myron Taylor Hall and Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 12 noon in 315 Warren Hall. Outside those times, please feel free to email questions to me or to call for an appointment; feel free to drop by my office any time, but please understand that I may not be available without prior notice.

Prof. Christopherson's regular office hours are 1:30-2:45 M/W by appointment. To make an appointment, email me and let me know the reason for the appointment so I can prepare. I also make appointments outside these hours when necessary. I can deal with many problems by email and respond rapidly.

TA office hours will be held in Ms. Michelson's office, 425 Warren, Thursdays 3:00-4:30 PM

COURSE OUTLINE:

The course consists of several modules, each with lecture and discussion sessions. After the first week, discussions will be held on Mondays, lectures on Wednesdays. The intent is that students absorb the lecture material and associated reading, then prepare the discussion questions due on Sunday for Monday's in-class seminar discussions. This sequencing allows students ample time to absorb and reflect on the core material and strikes a good balance between faculty lectures and more inclusive discussions.

Key

CB=Chris Barrett, D=Discussion, GL = Guest lecture, L=Lecture, SC=Susan Christopherson

<u>Week #:Dates</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
1: Jan 25-27	L: Introduction (SC)	Poverty/Mobility Concepts/Measures (CB)
	<u>Readings:</u> I. Sawhill and R. Haskins (2009), "5 Myths About Our Land of Opportunity," <i>Washington Post</i> John Iceland, 2006. <i>Poverty in America</i> (2nd Edition). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, chapters 1-3, pp 1-37 Julia Isaacs (2008). "International Comparisons of Economic Mobility". In R. Haskins and I. Sawhill (eds.) <i>Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in America</i> . Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution. S. Chen and M. Ravallion (2009), "The Changing Profile of Poverty in the World," Chap. 2 in J. von Braun, R.V. Hill and R. Pandya-Lorch, eds., <i>The Poorest and Hungry</i> (Washington: IFPRI). M. Lipton and M. Ravallion (1995), "Poverty and Policy," chap. 42 in J. Berhman and T.N. Srinivasan, eds., <i>Handbook of Development Economics, Vol. 3</i> (Amsterdam: North-Holland). M.R. Carter and C.B. Barrett (2006), "The Economics of Poverty Traps and Persistent Poverty: An Asset-Based Approach," <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> . 42, 2, pp. 178-199. S. Alkire and J.Foster (2009), "Counting and Multidimensional Poverty," chap. 3 in von Braun et al., <i>The Poorest and Hungry</i> .	
2: Feb 1-3	D: Concepts/Measures	

Module 1: Domestic Poverty Policy

2: Feb 1-3	L: Spatial/Racial Dimensions (SC)
	<u>Readings:</u> Iceland (2006), <i>Poverty in America</i> , Chapters 4, 5, 6, pp. 38-117 Brookings Institution (2008), <i>Learning from Concentrated Poverty in America: A Synthesis of Themes from Case Studies in Washington, D.C.</i>
3: Feb 8-10	D: Spatial/Racial Dimensions (SC) L: Spatial/Racial Dimensions (SC)
	<u>Readings:</u> Frey, W.H., A. Berube, A. Singer, J.H. Wilson (2009). <i>Getting Current: Recent Demographic Trends in Metropolitan America</i> . Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution. T. Slack et al. (2009). Poverty in the Texas Borderlands and Lower Mississippi Delta: A Comparative Analysis of Differences By Family Type. <i>Demographic Research</i> , 20,

15 (April): pp 353-376;

T. Hertz (2007). *Changes in the Volatility of Household Income in the United States: A Regional Analysis*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution

Squires, G.D. and C.E. Kubrin (2005). "Privileged places: Race, uneven development and the geography of opportunity in urban America," *Urban Studies*, 42(1): 47-68.

4: Feb 15-17 D: Spatial/Racial Dimensions (SC)

Module 2: International Poverty Policy

4: Feb 15-17

L: Transfers, targeting & safety nets (CB)

Readings: M. Ravallion (2006), 'Transfers and Safety Nets in Poor Countries:

Revisiting the Trade-Offs and Policy Options," in A.V. Banerjee, R. Benabou and D. Mookherjee, eds., *Understanding Poverty* (Oxford University Press).

A. Fiszbein and N. Schady (2009), *Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty* (Washington: World Bank), overview chapter.

D. Coady, M. Grosh and J. Hoddinott (2004), "Targeting Outcomes Redux," *World Bank Research Observer* 19, 1, pp. 61-85.

M.R. Carter and C.B.Barrett (2007), "Asset Thresholds and Social Protection," *IDS Bulletin* 38,3, pp. 34-44.

5: Feb 22-24 D: Transfers/targeting/safety nets L: Agricultural and rural dev't (CB)

Readings: World Bank, *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development*, chaps. 1 and 3.

P. Collier (2008), "The Politics of Hunger: How Illusion and Greed Fan the Food Crisis," *Foreign Affairs*, 87, pp. 67-79.

R. Evenson and D. Gollin (2003), "Assessing the Impact of the Green Revolution, 1960 to 2000," *Science* 300, pp. 758-762.

C.B. Barrett (in press), "Food Systems and the Escape from Poverty and Ill-Health Traps in sub-Saharan Africa," in P. Pinstrip-Andersen, ed., (Ithaca: Cornell University Press).

6: Mar 1-3 D: Agricultural and rural development

Module 3: Human Capital

6: Mar 1-3

GL: Health in developing countries (David Sahn)

Readings: Deaton, Angus. (2006). "Global Patterns of Income and Health: Facts, Interpretations, and Policies." UNU WIDER annual lecture.

Schultz, T. Paul (2008), "Health Human Capital and Economic Development," Yale University working paper.

7: Mar 8-10 D: Health in DCs

GL: Education and US poverty (Steve Morgan)

Readings: Monica Davey (2005), "A Child Held Behind", *New York Times*

Lareau, Annette (1987), "Social Class Differences in Family-School Relationships: The Importance of Cultural Capital." *Sociology of Education* 60:73-85.

Hallinan, Maureen T. and Jeanie Oakes (1994), Exchange with sub-articles titled "Tracking: From Theory to Practice" and "More than Misapplied Technology: A Normative and Political Response to Hallinan on Tracking." *Sociology of Education* 67:79-91.

Downey, Douglas B., Paul T. von Hippel, and Beckett A. Broh (2004), "Are Schools the Great Equalizer? Cognitive Inequality during the Summer Months and the School Year." *American Sociological Review* 69:613-35.

8: Mar 15-17 D: Education GL: Food security in rich countries (Christine Olson)
Reading: Pelletier DL, Olson CM and Frongillo EA. Food insecurity, hunger and undernutrition. In Bowman BA and Russell RM (eds), *Present Knowledge in Nutrition, 9th edition*, volume 2, pages 906-922. Washington DC: International Life Sciences Institute, 2006.

9: Mar 29-31 D: Food security

Module 4: Demography and Labor Markets

9: Mar 29-31 GL: Work-based anti-poverty policy (J. Matsudaira)
Readings: Moffitt, Robert A. (2003) "The Negative Income Tax and the Evolution of U.S. Welfare Policy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(3), 119-140
Card, David and Alan Krueger (1995) *Myth and Measurement: The New Economics of the Minimum Wage*, Chapter 1.

10: Apr 5-7 D: Work-based policy GL: Demographic Approaches (Dan Lichter)
Readings: Sara McLanahan. 2009. "Fragile Families and the Reproduction of Poverty." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 621:111-131.
Cancian, Maria and Debra Reed. 2009. "Family Structure, Childbearing, and Parental Employment: Implications for the Level and Trend in Poverty." Chapter 4 in *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies* ed. By Maria Cancian and Sheldon Danziger, (New York: Russell Sage Foundation.)
Heuveline, Patrick and Matthew Weinshenker. 2008. "The International Child Poverty Gap: Does Demography Matter?" *Demography* 45:173-191.
Sampson, Robert J., and Patrick Sharkey. 2008. "Neighborhood Selection and the Social Reproduction of Concentrated Racial Inequality." *Demography* 45:1-29.
Lichter, Daniel T., Domenico Parisi, Michael Taquino, and Brian Beaulieu. 2008. "Race and the Micro-Scale Concentration of Poverty." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 1:51-67.

11: Apr 12-14 D: Demographic approaches GL: Job Access/Mobility (M. Freedman)
Readings: Keith Ihlanfeldt, Spatial Mismatch Between Jobs and Residences within Urban Areas, *Cityscape*, 1(1), 1994: 219-244.
Katherine M. O'Regan and John M. Quigley, "Accessibility and Economic Opportunity," in *Essays in Transportation Economics and Policy*, J. Gomez-Ibañez et al., eds. Brookings Institution, 1999: 437-468.
Ellen, Ingrid Gould, and Margery Austin Turner, "Does Neighborhood Matter? Assessing Recent Evidence," *Housing Policy Debate* 8(4): 833-866.

12: Apr 19-21 D: Job Access/Mobility

Module 5: Political Economy of Poverty

12: Apr 19-21

GL: Africa (Nic van de Walle)

Readings: Nicolas van de Walle (2009), "The Institutional Origins of Inequality in Sub Saharan Africa", *Annual Review of Political Science*.
David Stasavage (2005), "Democracy and Education Spending in Africa," *American Journal of Political Science* 49, 2:343-358.
J. P. Olivier de Sardan (1999) "A moral economy of corruption in Africa?", *Journal of Modern African Studies* 37: 25-52
Michael Bratton and Eric Chang (2006), "State Building and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa" *Comparative Political Studies* 39,9:1059-1083.

13: Apr 26-28

D: Africa

GL: OECD countries (Chris Anderson)

Readings: Rueda, F. David. 2005. "Insider-Outsider Politics in Industrialized Democracies: The Challenge to Social Democratic Parties." *American Political Science Review* 99 (1): 61-74.
Cusack, Thomas, Torben Iversen, and Philipp Rehm. 2006. "Risks At Work: The Demand and Supply Sides of Government Redistribution." *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 22 (3): 365-389.
Alesina, Alberto, Rafael Di Tella, and Robert MacCulloch. 2004. "Inequality and Happiness: Are Europeans and Americans Different?" *Journal of Public Economics* 88 (9-10): 2009-2042.
Anderson, Christopher J., and Pablo Beramendi. 2008. "Income, Inequality, and Electoral Participation." In *Democracy, Inequality, and Representation: A Comparative Perspective*, ed. Pablo Beramendi and Christopher J. Anderson. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

14: May 3-5

D: OECD countries

L: Wrap-up (SC/CB)

Readings: Lepianka, D., W. Van Oorschot and J. Gelissen (2009), "Popular Explanations of Poverty: A Critical Discussion of Empirical Research," *J. Soc. Pol.*, 38,3, pp.421-438.
M. Ravallion (2009), "Evaluation in the Practice of Development," *World Bank Research Observer* 24, 1: pp. 29-53.