

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Economics

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Economics 4626  
Syllabus and schedule  
4 January 2017

The final examination will take place on Tuesday, 9 May, from 4:30 p.m. until 7:00p.m. It will require the full 2.5 hours and be worth 150 points. Any student who has three or more final examinations scheduled on 9 May has the right to reschedule all exams following the first two. Any student wishing to invoke this right must do so by 24 March.<sup>1</sup>

Two midterm examinations will each take 40 minutes, and be worth 40 points. They will take place on 14 February and 11 April unless class progress deviates significantly from expectations.

Two papers complete the course requirements. Each will analyze the issues presented in a case from the Harvard Business School

purposes. Improper use may be penalized by dismissal from the lecture, grade penalties or both.

The tentative schedule of lectures below also includes the list of assigned readings. AllÖMssi

2 February

6. Institutions and inequality

Levine, Ross (2005) "Law, endowments and property rights", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19, No. 3, Summer, 61-88.

Svensson, Jakob (2005) "Eight questions about corruption", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19, No. 3, Summer, 19-42.

7 February

7. Intertemporal inequality

Easterlin, Richard A. (2000) "The worldwide standard of living since 1800", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 14, No. 1, Winter, 7-26.

Lee, Ronald (2003) "The demographic transition: Three centuries of fundamental change", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 17, No. 4, Fall, 167-190.

9 February

8. Inter-country inequality

Pritchett, Lant (1999

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28 February

12. Intragenerational mobility

Essay on Governing the "Chinese Dream": Corruption, Inequality and the Rule of Law, Harvard Business School Case No. 9-715-023 is due.

2 March

13. The inheritance of economic status, intergenerational mobility and redistributive policy

Corak, Miles (2013) "Income inequality, equality of opportunity, and intergenerational mobility", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 27, No. 3, Summer, 79-102.

Solon, Gary (2002) "Cross-country differences in intergenerational earnings mobility", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 16, No. 3, Summer, 59-66.

7 March

14. Wealth inequality                      tion, Inequa

Kopczuk, Wojciech (2015) "Wha

- 16 March 17. Equivalence scales
- Lundberg, Shelly, Robert A. Pollak and Jenna Stearns (2016) "Family inequality: Diverging patterns in marriage, cohabitation, and childbearing", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 30, No. 2, Spring, 79-102.
- 21 March 18. Consumption inequality
- Attanasio, Orazio P. And Luigi Pistaferri (2016) "Consumption inequality", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 30, No. 2, Spring, 3-28.
- 23 March 19. Poverty
- Hoynes, Hilary W., Page, Marianne E. and Ann Huff, (2006) "Poverty in America: Trends and explanations", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter, 47-68.
- Smeeding, Timothy (2006) "Poor people in rich nations: The United States in comparative perspective", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter, 69-90.
- 4 April 20. Children's welfare
- Duncan, Greg J. and Katherine Magnuson (2013) "Investing in preschool programs", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 27, No. 2, Spring, 109-132.
- Edmonds, Eric V. and Nina Pavcnik (2005) "Child labor in the global economy", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19, No. 1, Winter, 199-220.
- 6 April 21. Well-being
- Kahneman, Daniel and Alan B. Krueger (2006) "Developments in the measurement of subjective well-being", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter, 3-24.
- Deaton, Angus (2008) "Income, health, and well-being around the world: Evidence from the Gallup poll", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 22, No. 2, Spring, 53-72.

11 April

Midterm examination

#### IV. Evaluating inequality

13 April

22. Social welfare functions and societal choice

18 April

23. Preferences for redistribution and feasible redistribution

Diamond, Peter and Emmanuel Saez (2011) "The case for a progressive tax: From basic research to policy recommendations", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 25, No. 4, Fall, 165-190.

Bonica, Adam, Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal (2013) "Why hasn't democracy slowed rising inequality?", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 27, No. 3, Summer, 103-124.

#### V. Discrimination and

2 May

27. Housing segregation and its progeny: School



discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions.<sup>5</sup> I am happy to discuss any issues of individual or group treatment in office hours or by appointment.

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to this institution's policy regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Office. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion.<sup>6</sup>

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<http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/>.

<sup>5</sup> University policies regarding classroom behavior are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior>.

<sup>6</sup> The Honor Code Office website is at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu/>. The Honor Code office can be contacted by email at [honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu) or by telephone at 303-735-2273. Additional information regarding the Student Honor Code Policy is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-honor-code-policy>.