

**PubPol 495: POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Fall 2017

Monday and Wednesday 8:30am-10:00am 1220 Weill Hall

Instructor: Prof. Natasha Pilkauskas  
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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30pm or by appointment. Sign up for a slot here: [Calendar](#)

**Course Description**

This is a course dedicated to an in-depth study of poverty and inequality in the United States. In particular, we will examine how poverty and inequality are measured, consider the underlying causes of poverty/inequality, consequences of poverty/inequality and then consider how our views of these causes shape public policy. We will examine theories of the culture of poverty, social stratification and discrimination, concentrated poverty and the underclass, economic and family structure drivers as well as institutional causes of poverty such as education and incarceration. We will also consider how special populations are particularly affected by poverty, such as children.

The aim of this course is for students to come away with an understanding of recent historical trends in terms of thinking about poverty and its causes and how that thinking influences policy making.

**Course Design**

There will usually be a short overview/lecture, but much of the class will be focused on discussion. Students will be expected to come to class prepared, having done the readings and to engage in class and small group discussions.

**Assignments and Expectations**

Please refer to the assignments document for details on the assignments!

Grades will be based on:

- Class participation/discussion questions – 20%
  - Due by 7am before class
- Policy topic – N/A
  - Draft due in class – due 9/20
  - Revision due - due 9/25
- Ethnography assignment – 30%
  - Book selection - due 9/20
  - Written assignment due 11/13
  - In class presentations - 11/13 & 11/15

- Problem statement and policy descriptions – 15%
  - Draft due in class - 10/9
  - Revision due - 10/13
- Policy analysis – 15%
  - Draft due in class - 10/30
  - Revision due – 11/6
- Final policy paper – 20% - due 12/11

### **Class Expectations:**

If you are going to miss a class you need to let me know ahead of time. More than three unexcused class absences will result in a final grade reduction. Students are also **expected to arrive for class on time** (Michigan time) and to refrain from using cell phones/tablets during class. I do not ban laptops – but I strongly discourage the use of laptops in class. I will provide lecture slides after class.

Because much of this class will be based on discussion, it is important that we create an open environment for discussion. This means being an active and engaged listener, offering insights, critiquing class content or viewpoints, and asking questions. It also means being respectful of others viewpoints and encouraging a diversity of views.

### **Some Useful Policy Websites**

American Enterprise Institute – <http://www.aei.org>

Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count – <http://www.kidscount.org/>

The Brookings Institute – [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)

Center for American Progress – [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

Census Bureau – <http://www.census.gov>

Children’s Defense Fund – [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

Center for Law and Social Policy – [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org)

Center for Research on Child Wellbeing (Princeton) – <http://crcw.princeton.edu/>

Child Trends – [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)

Future of Children – [www.futureofchildren.org](http://www.futureofchildren.org)

The Green Book – <http://greenbook.waysandmeans.house.gov/>

Heritage Foundation – [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)

Institute for Research on Poverty – [www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

Pew Charitable Trust – <http://www.pewtrusts.org>

Urban Institute – [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)

U.S. Census Bureau (population info and poverty statistics) – [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: ACF: [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov) ASPE:

[www.aspe.hhs.gov](http://www.aspe.hhs.gov)

## **General Academic Expectations**

<http://fordschool.umich.edu/academic/expectation>

## **Ford School of Public Policy Inclusivity Statement**

Members of the Ford School community represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. We are committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- honor the uniqueness of their colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value one another's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in Ford classes and across the UM community

## **Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources**

The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. We acknowledge that a variety of issues, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, and depression, directly impacts students' academic performance. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and/or University Health Service (UHS). For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit: <http://umich.edu/~mhealth/>.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you believe you need an accommodation for a disability, please let your instructor know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of courses may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make your instructor aware of your needs, they can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help determine appropriate academic accommodations. Any information you provide will be treated as private and confidential. Other information of Ford School norms/expectations and resources for students can be found at: <http://fordschool.umich.edu/academics/expectation>

## Class Calendar and Readings

### SECTION 1: DEFINITION, TRENDS, BACKGROUND

9/6/17 - Class 1: Introductions, syllabus, expectations and assignments. Why do we care about poverty/inequality?

9/11/17 - Class 2: History of poverty policy in the U.S., views of poverty and values, quick overview of policies

Required:

Before class fill in this quiz: <http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/group/41eb7138>

- Iceland J. *Poverty in America, a Handbook*. Chapt 1 “Early views of poverty in America” (1-11).
- Ellwood, David (1988). Chapt 2: Values and the helping conundrum. *In Poor Support: Poverty in the American Family*. Only through page 26 (stop at history 14-26).
- Edin & Shaefer (2015). *\$2 a day – living on almost nothing in America*. Chapt 1 (1-33)

Recommended:

- Corbett, Thomas (2013). “The rise and fall of poverty as a policy issue” *Focus* 30, 2.
- Edin, K. & Shaefer, L. (2016). “20 years since welfare “reform””. *The Atlantic* <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/08/20-years-welfare-reform/496730/>
- Ehrenfreund, M. (2016). “How welfare reform changed American poverty, in 9 charts”. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/08/22/the-enduring-legacy-of-welfare-reform-20-years-later/?wpisrc=nl\\_evening&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/08/22/the-enduring-legacy-of-welfare-reform-20-years-later/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-welfare-reform%3Ahomepage%2Ft-1&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-welfare-reform%3Ahomepage%2Ft-1&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-welfare-reform%3Ahomepage%2Ft-1&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-welfare-reform%3Ahomepage%2Ft-1&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-welfare-reform%3Ahomepage%2Ft-1&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-welfare-reform%3Ahomepage%2Ft-1)

9/13/17 - Class 3: Measuring poverty

Required:

- Haveman, 2009. “What does it mean to be poor in a rich society?” (6pgs) <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc262n.pdf>
- Johnson, D. & Smeeding, T.M. “A Consumer’s Guide to Interpreting Various U.S. Poverty Measures.” *Fast Focus*. No. 14-2012. Institute for Research on Poverty. (5pgs) <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/fastfocus/pdfs/FF14-2012.pdf>
- Kochar, R. (2015). What it means to be poor by global standards. Pew Research. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/07/22/what-it-means-to-be-poor-by-global-standards/> (1.5 pages)

## Recommended:

- Dhongde, S. & Haveman, R. (2016). "Multi-dimensional deprivation in the U.S." *Social Indicators Research*.

9/18/17 - Class 4: Trends and characteristics of poverty, working poor, chronic poverty

## Required:

- Rank, M. (2013) Poverty in America is mainstream, NYTimes (3pages) <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/02/poverty-in-america-is-mainstream/>
- Shaefer & Edin (2014). The rise of extreme poverty in the United States. *Pathways*. (5 pages) [http://web.stanford.edu/group/scspi/\\_media/pdf/pathways/summer\\_2014/Pathways\\_Summer\\_2014\\_ShaeferEdin.pdf](http://web.stanford.edu/group/scspi/_media/pdf/pathways/summer_2014/Pathways_Summer_2014_ShaeferEdin.pdf)
- Gunn, D. (2017). Why poverty is skyrocketing in the suburbs. Pacific Standard Magazine <https://psmag.com/economics/poverty-has-arrived-in-the-suburbs> (1.5 pages)
- Read exec summary through page 15. Winship, S. (2016). "Poverty after welfare reform". Manhattan Institute. <https://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/poverty-after-welfare-reform.html>

## Recommended:

- Scan/look through Census poverty numbers: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>
- Schaefer, Mattingly, & Johnson (2016). Child poverty higher and more persistent in rural America. <http://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1265&context=carsey>
- Badger & Ingrahm, (2015). The typical white family still makes \$25,000 more than the typical black one. NYTimes. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/09/16/the-typical-white-family-still-makes-25000-more-than-the-typical-black-one/>
- Chang & Madrick (2014) Inequality begins at birth: The tragedy of child poverty in America. The Century Foundation. <http://www.tcf.org/work/rediscovering-government/detail/inequality-begins-at-birth-the-tragedy-of-child-poverty-in-america/>

9/20/17 – Class 5: In class discussion and peer review of paper topics

9/25/17 - Class 6: Trends and measures of inequality (income and wealth)

## Required:

- Pages 1-13. Stone, C., Trisi, D., Sherman, A., & DeBot, B. (2015) A guide to statistics on historical trends in income inequality. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <http://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/a-guide-to-statistics-on-historical-trends-in-income-inequality> (13 pages)
- Desilver, D. (2013). The many ways to measure economic inequality. Pew Research Center. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/09/22/the-many-ways-to-measure-economic-inequality/> (3 pages)
- Matthews, D. (2017). You're not imagining it: the rich really are hoarding economic growth. Vox. <https://www.vox.com/platform/amp/policy-and-politics/2017/8/8/16112368/piketty-saez-zucman-income-growth-inequality-stagnation-chart>
- Bernstein, J & Speilberg, B. (2017). The whys of increasing inequality: A graphical portrait. Washington post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/amphtml/news/posteverything/wp/2017/08/14/the-whys-of-increasing-inequality-a-graphical-portrait/>

#### Recommended:

- Holand, J. (2016) "The average black family would need 228 years to build the wealth of a white family today". The Nation. <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-average-black-family-would-need-228-years-to-build-the-wealth-of-a-white-family-today/>
- This issue is dedicated to inequality: <http://ann.sagepub.com/content/663/1.toc>
- Briker, J., Henriques, A., Krimmel, J. & Sabelhaus, J. (2016). Measuring income and wealth at the top using administrative and survey data. Brookings papers on economic activity. <http://www.brookings.edu/about/projects/bpea/papers/2016/bricker-et-al-income-wealth-top>

## **SECTION 2: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY AND LINKS TO POLICY**

9/27/17 - Class 7: Culture of poverty / Flawed character / Class

#### Required:

- Lewis, O. (1964). "The culture of poverty". *Scientific American* (6pages)
- Patterson, O. (2006). "A poverty of the mind" NY Times (5 pages) [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/26/opinion/a-poverty-of-the-mind.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/26/opinion/a-poverty-of-the-mind.html?_r=0)
- Tough, P. (2007). "The class-consciousness raiser" NY Times Magazine (9 pages) <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/10/magazine/10payne-t.html>
- Confessore, N. (2012). "Tramps like them" NY Times Sunday Book Review (4 pages) <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/12/books/review/charles-murray-examines-the-white-working-class-in-coming-apart.html>

- Wilcox, B. (2012). "Values inequality" The Wall Street Journal (3 pages)  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052970203806504577181750916067234>

Recommended:

- Cohen, P. (2010). "Culture of poverty makes a comeback" NY Times  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/18/us/18poverty.html>

*10/2/17 - Class 8: Policies that address our flawed character – WORK FIRST! EITC, TANF, proposals on SNAP and housing. Consider argument that policies create poverty.*

Required:

- Bernstein, J. (2013) "Where have all the jobs gone?" NY Times (3pages)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/04/opinion/where-have-all-the-jobs-gone.html>
- Gunn, D. (2016) "Whose responsibility are the working poor?" (3pages)  
<https://psmag.com/whose-responsibility-are-the-working-poor-34a342b62560#gwmsaav92>
- Cooper, D. (2016). EPI Briefing Paper – Balancing paychecks and public assistance. **Just the introduction and key findings** (2pages)  
<http://www.epi.org/files/2015/balancing-paychecks-and-public-assistance.pdf>
- Revisit - Ellwood, David (1988). Chapt 2: Values and the helping conundrum.  
*In Poor Support: Poverty in the American Family.*

Recommended

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Intro to TANF  
<http://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-an-introduction-to-tanf>
- Who the EITC helps (4pages) <http://www.tcf.org/blog/detail/who-the-eitc-helpsand-why-it-works>
- Overview of the EITC:  
<http://www.tcf.org/blog/detail/the-eitcour-biggest-program-for-the-working-poor>
- Intro to SNAP: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-introduction-to-the-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>
- Cassidy, M. (2015) "How can the EITC be improved?"  
<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/how-can-the-eitc-be-improved/>

*10/4/17 - Class 9: Social Stratification: Race and Discrimination*

**Take the implicit bias test – do the one on race. You do not need to share your results but it is worth reflecting upon.**

- <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>



## Required:

- Pager, D. & Shepherd, H. (2008) "The sociology of discrimination: racial discrimination in employment, housing, credit and consumer markets." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 34: 181-209. (19pages)
- Wilson, W.J. (2009). "More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City." Norton & Company, New York. **Chapter 1 – structural and cultural forces that contribute to racial inequality.** P 1-24.
- Sawhill, I. & Reeves, R. (2016). "The case for race conscious policies." (4pages) <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/social-mobility-memos/posts/2016/02/04-case-for-race-conscious-policies-sawhill-reeves>

## Recommended:

- Lombrozo, T. (2017). How small inequities lead to big inequalities. <http://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2017/07/24/539010535/how-small-inequities-lead-to-big-inequalities>
- Blank, R. (2005). "Tracing the economic impact of cumulative disadvantage." *American Economic Review*, 95, 2.
- Leonard, J. (1990). "The impact of affirmative action regulation and equal employment law on black employment." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 4, 4.
- Pager, D. (2007). "The use of field experiments for studies of employment discrimination: Contributions, critiques, and directions for the future." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 609(1), 104-133.
- Reeves, R. (2015). "Five bleak facts on black opportunity." Brookings. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/social-mobility-memos/posts/2015/01/15-mlk-black-opportunity-reeves>

10/9/17 - Class 10: Problem Statement and Policy Descriptions Due In Class/Peer Review – Will touch on income segregation

## Required:

- Edsall, T. (2016). How the other fifth lives. NYTimes. [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/27/opinion/campaign-stops/how-the-other-fifth-lives.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/27/opinion/campaign-stops/how-the-other-fifth-lives.html?_r=0) (7 pages)

10/11/17 - Class 11: Concentration of poverty – Urban underclass, segregation, neighborhoods, racial segregation vs. income segregation.

## Required:

- Massey, D. & Denton, N. (1993) "American apartheid, segregation and the making of the underclass." In Grusky, & Szelenyi, *The Inequality Reader*. p. 170-181. (9 pages)



- Wilson, W.J. (1999). "Jobless poverty, a new form of social dislocation in the inner-city ghetto." In Grusky, & Szelenyi, *The Inequality Reader*. p. 159-169. (10 pages)
- Wilson, W.J. (2009). "More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City." Norton & Company, New York. **Chapter 2 – the forces shaping concentrated poverty** pp. 25-61.
- Pattillo, M. (2014). The problem of integration. (2 pages). <http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/the-problem-of-integration>
- Ifil, S. (2014). Focus on the costs of segregation for all. (2 pages) <http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/focus-on-the-costs-of-segregation-for-all>
- Sharkey, P. (2014) (2 pages) Making our assumptions about integration explicit. <http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/making-our-assumptions-about-integration-explicit>
- Johnson, R. (2014) In search of integration beyond black and white (3.5 pages) <http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/in-search-of-integration-beyond-black-white>

#### Recommended:

- Sharkey, P. (2009). "Neighborhoods and the Black-White mobility gap." [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/economic\\_mobility/pewsharkeyv12pdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/reports/economic_mobility/pewsharkeyv12pdf.pdf)
- Reeves, R. (2015). The dangerous separation of the American upper middle class. Brookings Social Mobility Memo. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/social-mobility-memos/posts/2015/09/03-separation-upper-middle-class-reeves>
- Reardon, S. & Bischoff, K. (2016). The continuing increase in income segregation 2007-2012. Stanford CEPA report. [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/27/opinion/campaign-stops/how-the-other-fifth-lives.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/27/opinion/campaign-stops/how-the-other-fifth-lives.html?_r=0)
- Dukmasova, M. (2015). "Our impoverished debate about housing segregation." [http://www.slate.com/articles/business/metropolis/2015/07/concentrated\\_poverty\\_the\\_term\\_has\\_noble\\_intentions\\_but\\_it\\_s\\_damaging\\_our\\_single.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/business/metropolis/2015/07/concentrated_poverty_the_term_has_noble_intentions_but_it_s_damaging_our_single.html)
- Badger, E. (2015). "The wealthy are walling themselves off in cities increasingly segregated by class." Washington Post Wonkblog. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/02/23/the-wealthy-are-walling-themselves-off-in-cities-increasingly-segregated-by-class/>
- Fry, R. (2012). "The rise of residential segregation by income." Pew Research Center, Social & Demographic Trends. <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/08/01/the-rise-of-residential-segregation-by-income/>

- Sharkey, P. (2013) *Stuck in place, urban neighborhoods and the end of progress toward racial equality*. The University of Chicago Press.

10/18/17 - Class 12: Policies addressing concentration of poverty/neighborhoods

Required:

- Wolfers, J. (2015) "Why the new research on mobility matters: An economists view." NYtimes Upshot (5 pages)- On Raj Chetty & Nathaniel's Work on MTO: [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/upshot/why-the-new-research-on-mobility-matters-an-economists-view.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/upshot/why-the-new-research-on-mobility-matters-an-economists-view.html?_r=0)
- Badger, E. (2016). "The basic reason why there just isn't enough decent housing for the poor" Washington Post Wonkblog (2 pages). [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/07/26/the-basic-reason-why-there-just-isnt-enough-decent-housing-for-the-poor/?tid=sm\\_tw](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/07/26/the-basic-reason-why-there-just-isnt-enough-decent-housing-for-the-poor/?tid=sm_tw)
- Desmond (2016). "The eviction economy." NYTimes (5 pages) <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/06/opinion/sunday/the-eviction-economy.html>

Recommended:

- Chang, A. (2016). "Living in a poor neighborhood changes everything about your life" (28 pages more like 10). <http://www.vox.com/2016/6/6/11852640/cartoon-poor-neighborhoods>
- Ptacin, M. (2016). "Grocery store on wheels rolls into Kansas City's food deserts" <http://www.kansascity.com/living/food-drink/article88805117.html>

If you're not familiar with housing policies in the U.S.

- Intro to housing vouchers: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/introduction-to-the-housing-voucher-program>
- <http://www.cbpp.org/research/policy-basics-introduction-to-public-housing>
- DeLuca & Rosenbaum (2008). "Escaping poverty, can housing vouchers help?" *Pathways*. 29-32. (4pages) [http://inequality.stanford.edu/\\_media/pdf/pathways/winter\\_2008/DeLucaRosenbaum.pdf](http://inequality.stanford.edu/_media/pdf/pathways/winter_2008/DeLucaRosenbaum.pdf)

If you want to know more about the Chetty's work and on MTO

- G.J. Duncan. "New Lessons from the Gautreaux and Moving to Opportunity Residential Programs," <http://merage.uci.edu/ResearchAndCenters/CRE/Resources/Documents/Duncan.pdf>
- <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/index.php/executive-summaries>
- [http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/images/mto\\_paper.pdf](http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/images/mto_paper.pdf)

Eviction

- Desmond, M. (2016). *Forced Out*. The New Yorker. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/02/08/forced-out>

## Other housing issues:

- Collison, R. (2016). Expanding neighborhood choices for voucher tenants using small area fair market rents. (2pages)  
<http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/expanding-neighborhood-choices-for-voucher-tenants-using-small-area-fair-ma>
- Fee, R. (2016). Housing choice shouldn't be at the expense of other low-income renters. (1.5 pages)  
<http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/housing-choice-shouldnt-be-at-the-expense-of-other-low-income-renters>
- McCain, D (2016). (1.5 pages) Small area FMRs; a jump start to affirmatively furthering fair housing. <http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/small-area-fmrs-a-jump-start-to-affirmatively-furthering-fair-housing>
- Yental, D. (2016). (2 pages) Supporting and protecting low-income residents is essential to ensuring successful SAFMR implementation.  
<http://furmancenter.org/research/iri/essay/supporting-and-protecting-low-income-residents-is-essential-to-ensuring-suc>

10/23/17 - Class 13: Economics: Jobs, Labor Markets, Wages, Unions

## Required:

- Blank, R. (2009). "Economic change and the structure of opportunity for less-skilled workers" In Cancian and Danziger (Eds) *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies*. P 63-87.
- Autor, D. (2010). "The polarization of job opportunities in the U.S. labor market." **Introduction and Summary Only (1-7)**  
<http://economics.mit.edu/files/5554>
- Patten, E. (2016). "Racial, gender wage gaps persist in US despite some progress". Pew Research Center. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/01/racial-gender-wage-gaps-persist-in-u-s-despite-some-progress/> (4 pages)

## Recommended:

- Uchitelle, L. (2006). "Retraining laid-off workers but for what? NYTimes  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/26/business/yourmoney/retraining-laidoff-workers-but-for-what.html> (15 pages)
- Furman, J. (2016) "Financial inclusion in the United States" (2 pages)  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/06/10/financial-inclusion-united-states>  
And  
[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/20160610\\_financial\\_inclusion\\_cea\\_issue\\_brief.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/20160610_financial_inclusion_cea_issue_brief.pdf)
- Should we raise the minimum wage? (7 pages)  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/12/should-we-raise-the-minimum-wage-11-questions-and-answers/282326/>

- Raising the minimum wage is a terrible idea (3pages):  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/06/22/a-15-minimum-wage-is-a-terrible-idea/> OR  
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/12/04/making-low-wages-liveable/raising-minimum-wage-is-misguided-policy>
- Raising min wage is a good idea (1page):
- <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/12/04/making-low-wages-liveable/raise-the-minimum-wage-to-12-an-hour>
- Unions are bad (2 pages):  
[http://townhall.com/columnists/johnhawkins/2011/03/08/5\\_reasons\\_unions\\_are\\_bad\\_for\\_america](http://townhall.com/columnists/johnhawkins/2011/03/08/5_reasons_unions_are_bad_for_america)
- Unions are good (2 pages):  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/unions-are-basically-dead/412831/>
- LaLonde, R. (1995). "The promise of public sector-sponsored training programs" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 9, 2  
<http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.9.2.149> (18 pages)
- Dimon, J. (2016). Why we are giving our employees a raise.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/12/opinion/jamie-dimon-why-were-giving-our-employees-a-raise.html>
- Brady, D., Baker, R. & Finnigan, R. (2013). "When unionization disappears: State-level unionization and working poverty in the United States". *American Sociological Review*, 78, 5, 872-896.
- Union membership and intergenerational mobility:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/10/upshot/how-an-areas-union-membership-can-predict-childrens-advancement.html?emc=edit\\_tnt\\_20150909&nid=63431886&tntemail0=y&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/10/upshot/how-an-areas-union-membership-can-predict-childrens-advancement.html?emc=edit_tnt_20150909&nid=63431886&tntemail0=y&r=0)
- Heinrich, C & Holtzer, H (2011) Improving Education and Employment for Disadvantaged Young Men: Proven and Promising Strategies  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0002716210391968>

10/25/17 - Class 14: Family structure as a cause of poverty

Required:

- Moynihan Report (1965). "The negro family the case for national action." (50 pages)  
<https://web.stanford.edu/~mrosenfe/Moynihan's%20The%20Negro%20Family.pdf>
- Edin, K. & Kefalas, M. (2005). "Unmarried with children", *Contexts*, 16-22.
- Haskins, R. (2015). The family is here to stay – or not. *Future of Children*, 25, 2, 129-154.  
<http://www.futureofchildren.org/publications/docs/HeretoStay.pdf>

Recommended:

- Ribar, D. (2015) "Why marriage matters for child wellbeing." *Future of Children*, 25, 2 p11-23.  
<http://www.futureofchildren.org/publications/docs/WhyMarriageMatters.pdf>
- Adamy, J. (2016). "How income inequality is fueling the rise of unmarried parents". *The Wall Street Journal*.  
<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2016/07/14/how-income-inequality-is-fueling-the-rise-of-unmarried-parents/>
- Coontz, S. (2002). "Marriage, Poverty and Public Policy", *The American Prospect*, <http://prospect.org/article/marriage-poverty-and-public-policy> (12 pages)
- Schneider, D. (2015). "Lessons Learned from Non-Marriage Experiments." *Future of Children*, 25, 2, 155-174.  
<http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/lessonlearned.pdf>
- Marriage and Child Wellbeing (2005). *Future of Children*  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/i369258>
- Marriage and Child Wellbeing Revisited (2015). *Future of Children*.  
<https://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/docs/FullJournalMarriageRevisited.pdf>

10/30/17 - Class 15: Peer Review of Policy Analysis – More on Family Structure and Policy

11/1/17 - Class 16: Intergenerational Mobility – Guest lecturer – Fabian Pfeffer, in Weil 1210– 2:30-4:00.

CLASS TODAY AT 8:30 IS CANCELLED COME TO GRAD SECTION IF YOU CAN MAKE IT! IF NOT – WATCH VIDEO AFTER IT IS POSTED.

Required:

- Pfeffer, F. & Schoeni, B. (2014). Intergenerational transmission of wellbeing.  
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc311l.pdf> (4 pages)
- Solon, G. Intergenerational transmission of income inequality: What do we know? <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc332b.pdf> (2pages).
- Pew Charitable Trusts (2012). Pursuing the American Dream.  
[http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs\\_assets/2012/pursuingamericandreampdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs_assets/2012/pursuingamericandreampdf.pdf) (26 pages)
- Semuels, A. (2016). "Poor at 20, poor for life." *The Atlantic*.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/07/social-mobility-america/491240/> (2.5 pages)

Recommended:

- An hereditary meritocracy. *The Economist* (6 pages)  
<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21640316-children-rich-and-powerful-are-increasingly-well-suited-earning-wealth-and-power>
- Smeeding, T. (2016) Gates, gaps and intergenerational mobility: the importance of an even start. In Kirsch, I. & Braun, H. (Eds). *The Dynamics of Opportunity in America* Educational Testing Service. (32 pages)
- Miller, C. (2015). "Class differences in child-rearing are on the rise" *NYTimes Upshot* (5 pages) <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/18/upshot/rich-children-and-poor-ones-are-raised-very-differently.html>

11/6/17 - Class 17: Education

Take a look at this: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/college-mobility/>

Required:

- Duncan, Magnuson & Murnane (2016). "Reforming preschools and schools." (5 pages) *Academic Pediatrics*, 16  
[http://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859\(15\)00376-9/pdf](http://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(15)00376-9/pdf)
- Bailey & Dynarski Changing inequality in college entry and completion. NBER working paper - Digest. <http://www.nber.org/digest/may12/w17633.html> (1 page)
- Porter, E. (2015). "The education gap between rich and poor is growing" (4 pages) *NYTimes*.  
<http://nytimes.com/2015/09/23/business/economy/education-gap-between-rich-and-poor-is-growing-wider.html>
- Reardon, Waldfogel & Bassok. (2016). "The good news about education inequality" *NY Times* (2 pages)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/28/opinion/sunday/the-good-news-about-educational-inequality.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&r=2>
- Dynarski, S. (2016) "Why American schools are even more unequal than we thought". *NYTimes Upshot* (2 pages)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/14/upshot/why-american-schools-are-even-more-unequal-than-we-thought.html>

Recommended:

- Goldin, C. & Katz, L. "The future of inequality, the other reason education matters so much". (7 pages)  
[http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/the\\_future\\_of\\_inequality.pdf](http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/the_future_of_inequality.pdf)
- Reardon, S. (2011). The widening academic achievement gap between the rich and the poor: new evidence and possible explanations. In Duncan, G & Murnane, R. (Eds) *Whither Opportunity* p 91-115.

- Strauss, R. (2013) "Schooling ourselves in an unequal America."  
<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/16/schooling-ourselves-in-an-unequal-america/>
- Badger, E. (2015). "The one thing rich parents do for their kids that makes all the difference" Wonkblog Washington Post.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/05/10/the-incredible-impact-of-rich-parents-fighting-to-live-by-the-very-best-schools/>
- Magnuson, K. (2013) Reducing the effects of poverty through early childhood intervention. Fast Focus: ( 5 pages)  
<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/fastfocus/pdfs/FF17-2013.pdf>
- Executive Summary (2 pages). Yoshikawa, Weiland, Brooks-Gunn, Burchinal, Espinosa, Gormley, Ludwig, Magnuson, Phillips & Zaslow (2013). Investing in our future: The evidence base on preschool education. *Society for Research in Child Development & The Foundation for Child Development*.
- Leonhardt, D. (2010). "The case for \$320,000 kindergarten teachers." (4 pages) NYTimes  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/28/business/economy/28leonhardt.html>
- Murnane, R. (2007). "Improving the education of children living in poverty."  
<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ795871.pdf>
- Balfanz, R. (2009). Can the American high school become an avenue for advancement for all? *The Future of Children*, 19, 1 17-36.  
[https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/future\\_of\\_children/v019/19.1.balfanz.pdf](https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/future_of_children/v019/19.1.balfanz.pdf)
- Duncan, G. & Murnane, R. (2016). "Rising inequality in family incomes and children's educational outcomes" *Russell Sage Journal*.  
<http://www.rsjournal.org/doi/full/10.7758/RSF.2016.2.2.06>

11/8/17 - Class 18: Politics of poverty and inequality **We will do an class exercise so make sure you do the readings!**

Required:

- Ryan, P. (2016). "A better way, our vision for a confident America". Poverty, opportunity and upward mobility. Better.gop.  
<http://abetterway.speaker.gov/assets/pdf/ABetterWay-Poverty-PolicyPaper.pdf>
- Aber, Butler, Danziger, Ellwood, Gueron, Haidt, Haskins, Holzer, Hymowitz, Mead, Mincy, Reeves, Strain & Waldfogel, (2015). Opportunity, responsibility and security: a consensus plan for reducing poverty and restoring the American dream. AEI/ Brookings Working Group on Poverty and Opportunity.  
<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2015/12/aei-brookings-poverty-report/full-report.pdf>
- Boteach, Vallas, & Schultz (2016). "A progressive agenda to cut poverty and expand opportunity." Center for American Progress.



<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/03081022/RoadmapOpportunity-report.pdf>

Recommended:

- Rector, R. (2008). "Understanding and reducing poverty in America." *Heritage Foundation*.  
<http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/understanding-and-reducing-poverty-in-america>
- Haskins, R. (2016) "Renewing communities and providing opportunities through innovative solutions to poverty." Brookings.  
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/testimony/2016/06/22-renewing-communities-and-providing-opportunities-through-innovative-solutions-to-poverty-haskins>
- Rector, R. & Sheffield R. (2011). "Understanding poverty in the United States: Surprising facts about America's poor." *Heritage Foundation*.  
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/09/understanding-poverty-in-the-united-states-surprising-facts-about-americas-poor>
- Greenstein, R. (2016). "Commentary: House GOP's attention to poverty is welcome, but plan is seriously flawed". Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <http://www.cbpp.org/poverty-and-inequality/commentary-house-gops-attention-to-poverty-is-welcome-but-plan-is-seriously>
- Porter, E. (2016). "Finding common political ground on poverty." *NYTimes*  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/03/business/finding-common-political-ground-on-poverty.html>

### SECTION 3: ETHNOGRAPHIES

11/13/17 - Class 19: In-Class Presentation of Ethnographies

11/15/17 - Class 20: In-Class Presentation of Ethnographies

### SECTION 4: SPECIAL POPULATIONS/SPECIAL TOPICS

11/20/17 - Class 21: Guest lecture – Kristin Seefeldt *Abandoned Families*

Required IF YOU DID NOT READ ABANDONED FAMILIES:

- Seefeldt, K. (2017). How welfare's work requirements can deepen and prolong poverty. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-welfares-work-requirements-can-deepen-and-prolong\\_us\\_59837487e4b00833d1de2677](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-welfares-work-requirements-can-deepen-and-prolong_us_59837487e4b00833d1de2677)

11/22/17 – Class 22: Class cancelled – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

11/27/17 - Class 23: Incarceration, effects on employment, families

## Required:

- Western, B & Pettit, B. (2010). "Collateral costs: Incarceration's effect on economic mobility." (20 pages)  
[http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs\\_assets/2010/collateralcosts1pdf.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs_assets/2010/collateralcosts1pdf.pdf)
- Pager, D. (2004). Mark of a criminal record. *Focus* (3 pages)  
<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc232i.pdf>
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi (2015). Read sections I-III but I recommend the whole thing. <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/10/the-black-family-in-the-age-of-mass-incarceration/403246/#Chapter%20IX>

## Recommended:

- Gopnik A. (2017). How we misunderstand mass incarceration. *The New Yorker*. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/04/10/how-we-misunderstand-mass-incarceration>
- Western, B. (2001). Incarceration, Unemployment and Inequality, *Focus*, Spring 2001 32-36.  
<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc213.pdf>
- Western, B. (2008). Prisoner reentry  
[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2008/12/prison-to-work-western/12\\_prison\\_to\\_work\\_western.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2008/12/prison-to-work-western/12_prison_to_work_western.pdf)
- Boys with incarcerated fathers are screwed before they even get to school  
<http://www.vox.com/2014/4/24/5647660/boys-incarcerated-fathers-school-behavior-prison-pipeline>
- Bauer, S. (2017). My four months as a private prison guard. *Mother Jones*.  
<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/06/cca-private-prisons-corrections-corporation-inmates-investigation-bauer/>

11/29/17 - Class 24: Guest Lecture – Luke Shaefer \$2/day

12/4/17 - Class 25: Special Topics: Mothers and Children: WIC, Paid Leave, Child care, child benefits

## Required:

- Matthews, D. (2017). Child poverty in the US is a disgrace. Experts are embracing this simple plan to cut it. <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/4/27/15388696/child-benefit-universal-cash-tax-credit-allowance> (9ish pages)
- **Executive Summary Only.** Garfinkel, I, Harris, D., Waldfogel, J. & Wimer, C. (2016). Doing more for our Children, The Century Foundation. [https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/production.tcf.org/app/uploads/2016/03/16013632/DoingMoreForOurChildren\\_Final.pdf](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/production.tcf.org/app/uploads/2016/03/16013632/DoingMoreForOurChildren_Final.pdf)

- Children’s Defense Fund. End child poverty now (about 40 pages more like 20) <http://www.childrensdefense.org/newsroom/mediaresources/ending-child-poverty-now.pdf>

Recommended:

- Chase-Lansdale, L. and Brooks-Gunn, J. (2014). Two Generation Programs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *Future of Children*, 24, 1  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/future\\_of\\_children/v024/24.1.chase-lansdale.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/future_of_children/v024/24.1.chase-lansdale.html)
- Currie, J. (1997). “Choosing among alternative programs for poor children”. *Future of Children*, 7, 2. (14 pages)  
[http://www.futureofchildren.org/publications/docs/07\\_02\\_06.pdf](http://www.futureofchildren.org/publications/docs/07_02_06.pdf)
- Whitehurst, G. (2016). “Family support or school readiness? Contrasting models of public spending on children’s early care and learning. *Brookings Economic Studies*. <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Family-support3.pdf>
- Non-Standard Work/Shifting schedules (4 pages):  
<http://www.epi.org/files/pdf/88777.pdf>
- Benefits of Paid parental leave (4pages):  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/01/upshot/the-economic-benefits-of-paid-parental-leave.html>
- WIC Works. Addressing the Nutrition and Health Needs of Low-Income Families for 40 years. <http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/wic-works-addressing-the-nutrition-and-health-needs-of-low-income-families>
- Boo, K. (2006). Swamp Nurse – on nurse home visiting:  
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2006/02/06/swamp-nurse>
- Currie, J. (2016). “How can we reduce child poverty and support parental employment?” *Academic Pediatrics*, 16.  
[http://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859\(16\)00059-0/pdf](http://www.academicpedsjnl.net/article/S1876-2859(16)00059-0/pdf)
- Issue of *Academic Pediatrics* touching on child poverty  
<http://www.academicpedsjnl.net/issue/S1876-2859%2816%29X0005-8>

12/6/17 – Class 26: War on poverty? Did it work?

Required:

- Lowrey, A. (2014). “50 years later, war on poverty is a mixed bag.” *NYTimes* (4 pages) <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/05/business/50-years-later-war-on-poverty-is-a-mixed-bag.html>
- Boteach, Stegman, Baron, Ross & Wright (2014). “The war on poverty: Then and Now”. Center for American Progress. (32 pages)  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/PovertyAnniversary.pdf>

Recommended:

- Fox, L., Wimer, C., Garfinkel, I., Kaushal, N & Waldfogel, J.. "Waging war on poverty: Poverty trends using a historical supplemental poverty measure." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 34, no. 3 (2015): 567-592.

12/11/17 - Class 27: Wrap up

Required:

- Irwin, N. & Bui, Q. (2016). "The rich live longer everywhere, for the poor, geography matters." (3 pages)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/04/11/upshot/for-the-poor-geography-is-life-and-death.html>
- Peri, G. "Immigrant workers, native poverty and labor market competition." Policy Brief Vol 1, 3, Center for Poverty Research, UC Davis (2 pages)  
[http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/policy\\_brief\\_peri\\_immigration\\_0.pdf](http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/policy_brief_peri_immigration_0.pdf)
- Kenny, C. (2015) Give poor people cash. The Atlantic. (7 pages)  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/welfare-reform-direct-cash-poor/407236/>

Recommended:

- Aizenman, N. (2017) How to fix poverty: why not just give people money?  
<http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/08/07/541609649/how-to-fix-poverty-why-not-just-give-people-money>
- England, P. (2005). "Gender inequality in labor markets: the role of motherhood and segregation." *Social Politics*, 12 (16 pages)  
<http://sp.oxfordjournals.org/content/12/2/264.full.pdf+html>
- Case A. & Paxson, C. (2006). "Children's health in the United States" *Future of Children*  
[https://www.princeton.edu/~accase/downloads/Children's\\_Health\\_and\\_Social\\_Mobility.pdf](https://www.princeton.edu/~accase/downloads/Children's_Health_and_Social_Mobility.pdf)
- Ruffing, K. & Pavetti, L. (2012). SSI and children with disabilities: just the facts. <http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/12-14-12ss.pdf>