

## Globalization and Inequality (37931)

Summer 2019

Time: Mon, Tue, Wed and Thu TBA

Room: TBA

Instructor:

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**Course Objectives:** This course introduces the sociological studies of inequality and discuss them in the context of globalization. The main question to ask in this course is why inequality is rising across the world with globalization. Topics to be considered include fundamental theoretical and methodological issues, the impacts of international trade and migration on inequality, income inequality, wealth inequality, social mobility, poverty, and gender inequality. After taking this course, (1) students will be able to compute and interpret the inequality indexes such as the Gini Inequality Index; (2) they will understand the historical change in inequality across the world; and (3) they will be able to engage in the informed discussion on the past, present, and future of inequality and why inequality is rising globally.

**Textbook:** There is no textbook, but there is one required book for a writing assignment. All other required readings will be posted on the course website.

**Required Book:** Milanovic, Branko. 2016. *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Harvard University Press.

**Course Website:** <http://people.ku.edu/~chkim/EwhaIneq>

(An ID and a password [they are different from your Ewha-ID/Password] are required to open and/or download the restricted materials from the course website. Contact the instructor to acquire them.)

**Quizzes and Final Exam:** There will be three short in-class quizzes on July 3, July 10, and July 17. Each quiz accounts for 30 points. Each quiz covers what we discussed in previous four classes. The final exam will be given on the last day of the class (July 23). The final exam accounts for 100 points. The final exam is an “often-note-exam.” You can consult your own note in the final exam (Note that you are not allowed to use your notes for quizzes), but you cannot use the textbook or a carbon copy of someone else’s note including lecture slides and handouts. Both hand-written and electronically typed notes are allowed. Make-up tests are available only under two conditions: 1) you must have a valid excuse (this almost always means a medical excuse); or 2) you must receive my permission to miss the quiz prior to the test. It is your responsibility to provide written verification of your excuse to me; if I do not receive it, you will not receive any credit for the test.

**Class Participation:** All students are expected to read assigned materials before class and to actively contribute to class discussion (30 points). At the end of course, I will award up to another

5 bonus points to students who contributed to class discussions very actively. I will assign 0 participation points to students who did not say anything constructive during the semester.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance will be taken everyday. Each absence will cost five points. Class attendance is worth for total 30 points. Perfect attendance will be rewarded with a 5 point extra credit. You must notify me by email if there are any reasonable excuses why you cannot come to class. Supporting documents MUST be provided later. Students who leave before the attendance has been taken or those who leave without permission will not be counted for the day.

**Writing Assignment:** One writing assignment will be given during the course. This work requires students to write an essay on a specified topic after reading the book titled *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. Students can earn a (maximum) 50 point credit.

**Evaluation Scheme**

Item	Points	Item	Points
Quiz 1	30	Final Exam	100
Quiz 2	30	Participation	30
Quiz 3	30	Attendance	30
Essay	50		
Total		300	

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
290+	A+	260-269	B+	230-239	C+	200-209	D+		
280-289	A	250-259	B	220-229	C	190-199	D		
270-279	A-	240-249	B-	210-219	C-	180-189	D-	≤ 179	F

**Classroom Etiquette:** There are several things that I find very distracting during class, talking while I and others are speaking and leaving early from class. I also ask that students do their best to respect one another’s views and do not personalize disagreements.

**Cell-phones and Computers:** Don’t forget turning off your cell-phone. Cell-phones, computers or any other IT gadgets are absolutely not allowed to use during class in any circumstances. If you want to use a laptop for note-taking, get permission from the instructor. The permission will be granted only if you agree that the instructor has a right to monitor your laptop during class.

**Course Policies**

- **Copyrights** All classroom materials including syllabus, lectures, slides, and others are allowed only for personal uses. Sharing them with others (except your classmates) or selling them to third parties or anyone else including your classmates are strictly prohibited. Seek permission from the instructor if you need to videotape or record the lectures.
- **IT Gadgets: The usage of cell-phones, tablets, laptops and any other IT gadgets in class is strictly prohibited.** Reading newspapers and checking cell-phones in class are considered as class disruption. Repeated class disruptions will result in lowering your final grade or dismissal from the class.
- **Religious Holidays:** If you are unable to attend a class due to a religious holiday, please let me know in advance, and we can make other arrangements.

- **Accommodations:** I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. I will need documentation from the appropriate college office before making any changes. You will need to let me know as soon as possible, so that I can make arrangements.
- **Record Keeping:** Students are obliged to save their important emails such as class absence notification in their email accounts and to keep other important records.
- **Other Policies:** Please note that Ewha Womans University has many policies regarding how classes will be conducted and expected behaviors of students. Even though these may not be explicitly listed here, this class will be run in accordance with other policies.

### Tentative Daily Topics and Readings

(Daily readings are going to be updated and will be posted on our course website.)

#### 1. Introduction, Theoretical Background 1

- Main Question: Is Inequality bad? Why? Why not?
- Reader Chapters 2 and 4
- Reading: Tumin, Melvin. 1953. "Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis." *American Sociological Review* 18:387-394.

#### 2. Theoretical Background 2

- Main Question: Karl Marx declared that the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Is he right?
- Marx. "Classes in Capitalism and Pre-Capitalism."
- Weber. "Class, Status, Party."

#### 3. Measures of Inequality

- Main Question: How can we measure inequality?
- No required readings
- Optional Reading: Allison, Paul D. 1978. "Measures of Inequality." *American Sociological Review* 43:865-80.

#### 4. Inequality: Global Trend

- Main Question: Is inequality rising globally? If so, is it because of the rise in within-country inequality or the rise in between-country inequality?
- Milanovic. 2013. "Global Income Inequality in Numbers: in History and Now." *Global Policy* 4(2):198-208.

#### 5. Globalization

- Main Question: What is globalization? Why do we believe that globalization is associated with the change in inequality?
- Mills, Melinda. 2009. "Globalization and Inequality." *European Sociological Review* 25(1):1-8.

- Kollmeyer, Christopher. 2016. "Globalization and income inequality: How public sector spending moderates this relationship in affluent countries." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 56(1):3-28.

## 6. Income Inequality and Kuznets Curve

- Main Question: Is income inequality rising? How has income inequality changed over time? Is there any stylized pattern? Let's compare Korea, the US, and the world.
- Nielsen and Alderson. 2005. "Exactly How Has Income Inequality Changed? Patterns of Distributional Change in Core Societies." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 46: 405-23.

## 7. Why is Income Inequality Rising: Education and Technological Change

- Main Question: Why income inequality is rising?
- Autor, David H. 2014. "Skills, Education, and the Rise of Earnings Inequality among the Other 99 Percent." *Science* 344: 843-851.

## 8. Robot and the Future of Inequality

- Main Question: Will robots replace your work?
- Reader Chapters 70 and 71
- CBS Video Clip
- Autor, David H. 2015. "Polanyis Paradox and the Shape of Employment Growth." Book Chapter.
- Autor, David H. 2010. "The Polarization of Job Opportunities in the U.S. Labor Market." *The Center for American Progress*.

## 9. Why is Income Inequality Rising: Institutional Changes

- Main Question: Why income inequality is rising?
- Kim, ChangHwan and Arthur Sakamoto. 2010. "Assessing the Consequences of Declining Unionization and Public-Sector Employment: A Density-Function Decomposition of Rising Inequality from 1983 to 2005." *Work and Occupations* 37:119-61.

## 10. International Migration and Inequality

- Main Question: Does the rise in international migration cause the increase in inequality in rich countries? Is President Trump Right?
- Kim, ChangHwan and Arthur Sakamoto. 2013. "Immigration and the Wages of Native Workers: The Spatial Versus the Occupational Approaches." *Sociological Focus* 46:85-105.
- Weyl, E. Glen. 2018. "The Openness-Equality Trade-Off in Global Redistribution." *The Economic Journal*.

## 11. Global Poverty

- Main Question: Does globalization reduce or increase poverty? How much poor is poor enough to justify social actions? How global poverty has changed over time?
- Bergh, Andreas and Therese Nilsson. 2014. "Is Globalization Reducing Absolute Poverty?" *World Development* 62: 42-61. Author links open overlay panel

## 12. Wealth Inequality

- Main Question: Is the wealth inequality in the US worse than that in Sweden?
- Piketty, Thomas and Emmanuel Saez. 2014. "Inequality in the Long Run." *Science* 344(6186):838-43.

### 13. Intergenerational Mobility: the Great Gatsby Curve

- Main Question: Is the level playing ground possible and/or desirable? Does higher education guarantee upward mobility?
- Corak, Miles. 2013. "Income Inequality, Equality of Opportunity, and Intergenerational Mobility." *Journal of Economic Perspective* 27(3):79-102.

### 14. Gender Inequality

- Main Question: How bad is the gender inequality in Korea?
- Goldin, Claudia. 2006. "The Quiet Revolution That Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family." *American Economic Review* 96: 1-21.

### 15. Final Exam