



**Ben Gurion University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Department of Economics**

**Name of course: Economics of Inequality and Poverty**

**Year 2019 תשע"ט Spring semester**

**Course number \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of lecturer: Dr. Miri Stryjan**

**Course objectives**

The students will learn how to understand, use and compare different measures of economic inequality. Through case studies of empirical papers in economics, the course will teach central topics and methods in the study of inequality in economics, as well as study and discuss the link between poverty and inequality.

**Course outline**

The course will combine the practical learning of measures of economic inequality and reading of academic articles that study different aspects of inequality. The course will have three main building blocks: (1) Measures of inequality: What do they measure? How are they constructed? What do they tell us? How do they compare? (2) Central topics in the study of inequality in economics, such as: intergenerational mobility in education and labor market, health investment and their connection to inequality, discrimination in the labor market. (3) Trends in inequality and poverty over time, political economy perspectives.

**Course and grade requirements**

<b>משקל בציון הסופי :</b>	
_____ % -	Attendance
_____ % -	Quizzes
25 % -	Homework assignments
75 % -	Exams
100% -	Total

## **Bibliography:**

### **Measures of inequality**

Atkinson, A.B. and Bourguignon, F. eds., 2014. Handbook of income distribution. Elsevier. (selected sections)

### **Titles to be added.**

### **General reading about poverty and economics**

Banerjee A.V., Duflo, E. (2011). Poor economics: a radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty. New York, Public Affairs. (selected sections)

### **General reading about methods in Economics**

Angrist, J.D., Pischke, J.-S. (2014). Mastering Metrics: The path from cause to effect. Princeton, Princeton University Press. (selected sections)

### **Health investments and mental health**

Aizer, A., & Currie, J. (2014). The intergenerational transmission of inequality: Maternal disadvantage and health at birth. *Science*, 344(6186), 856-861.

Almond, D., & Mazumder, B. A. (2011). Health capital and the prenatal environment: the effect of Ramadan observance during pregnancy. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 3(4), 56-85.

Haushofer, J. and Fehr, E., 2014. On the psychology of poverty. *Science*, 344(6186), pp.862-867.

Jayachandran, S., & Pande, R. (2015). Why are Indian children so short? (No. w21036). National Bureau of Economic Research. (J&P)

### **Education and intergenerational mobility**

Burszтын, L., Egorov, G., & Jensen, R. (2016). Cool to be Smart or Smart to be Cool? Understanding Peer Pressure in Education. (BEJ)

Chetty, R., Hendren, N., Kline, P., & Saez, E. (2014). *Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the United States* (No. w19843). National Bureau of Economic Research. ) (Chetty 1)

Chetty, R. and Hendren, N. (2016) The Effects of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility I: Childhood Exposure Effects (Chetty 2)

Duflo, Esther. 2001. "Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment." *American Economic Review*, 91(4): 795-813. (Duflo 1)

Duflo, E. (2004). The medium run effects of educational expansion: Evidence from a large school construction program in Indonesia. *Journal of Development Economics*, 74(1), 163-197. (Duflo 2)

Gould, E. D., Lavy, V., & Paserman, M. D. (2011). Sixty years after the magic carpet ride: The long-run effect of the early childhood environment on social and economic outcomes. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 78(3), 938-973. (Gould 1)

Gould, E.D., Lavy, V. and M.D. Paserman (2011) Immigrating to Opportunity: Estimating the Effect of School Quality Using a Natural Experiment on Ethiopians in Israel *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2004) 119 (2): 489-526. (Gould 2)

Nybohm, M., & Stuhler, J. (2014). Interpreting trends in intergenerational mobility. Swedish Institute for Social Research working paper.

### **Marginalized groups and discrimination**

Bartos, V., Bauer, M., Chytilová, J., & Matějka, F. (2015). Attention Discrimination: Theory and Field Experiments with Monitoring Information Acquisition. (Disc1)

Bertrand, M., & Mullainathan, S. (2004). Are Emily and Greg more employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A field experiment on labor market discrimination. *The American Economic Review*, 94(4), 991-1013. (Disc 2)

Chay, K., & Munshi, K. (2015). Black Mobilization After Emancipation: Evidence from Reconstruction and the Great Migration. mimeo

Fryer R. G. Jr. (2016) An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force, NBER Working Paper No. 22399, July 2016.

Rao, G. (2014). Familiarity Does Not Breed Contempt: Generosity, Discrimination and Diversity in Delhi Schools. UC Berkeley Mimeo.

**More titles to be added later.**