Inequality, Social Mobility and Public Policy
Independent Readings Course, Spring 2017

Inequality: Trends over Time
Week 1 (January 9-13)

Inequality: Technology and Capital
Week 2 (January 16-20)

Inequality: Wages and De-unionization
Week 3 (January 23-27)
- Piketty, Thomas, Capital in the 21st century (Harvard University Press, 2014) [chapters 7 and 8]
- Autor, David, 2010 “The Polarization of Job Opportunities in the U.S. Labor Market: Implications for Employment and Earnings”
- Autor “Skills, education, and the rise of earnings inequality among the “other 99 percent”, Science 2014
Week 4 (January 30 – February 3)

- Richard Freeman and James Medoff (1984), What Do Unions Do?, pp. 43-60 (Chapter 3), pp. 78-93 (Chapter 5) and pp. 150-161 (Chapter 10).

Persistent Poverty
Week 5 (February 6-10)

- Holzer et al “The Economic Costs of Poverty in the U.S.: Subsequent Effects on Children Growing up Poor” Center for American Progress

The Top 1 Percent
Week 6 (February 20-24)

• Saez, Emmanuel, “Striking it Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States” (Updated with 2012 data) 2013.

**Intergenerational Mobility: Historical and Geographic Trends**

**Week 7 (February 27-March 3)**
• The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940 (with David Grusky, Maximilian Hell, Nathaniel Hendren, Robert Manduca, Jimmy Narang)
• Van Leeuwen and Maas “Historical Studies of Social Mobility and Stratification” Annual Review of Sociology

**Week 8 (March 6-10)**
• Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States (with Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez), Quarterly Journal of Economics 129(4): 1553-1623, 2014
• The Effects of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility I: Childhood Exposure Effects (with Nathaniel Hendren)
• The Effects of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility II: County Level Estimates (with Nathaniel Hendren)

**Intergenerational Mobility: Inheritance**

**Week 9 (March 13-17)**
• Kopczuk, W., What Do We Know About the Evolution of Top Wealth Shares in the United States? Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2015, 29(1), 47-66

Intergenerational Mobility: Education and Opportunity
Week 10 (March 20-24)

Public Policy: Minimum Wage
Week 11 (March 27-31)
- Alan Manning, “To Raise, or Not to Raise, the Minimum Wage Again,” Miliken Review 3rd qtr 2013.
- Jane Collins and Victoria Meyer, Both Hands Tied: Welfare Reform and the Race to the Bottom in the Low-Wage Labor Market
- Dube “Designing Thoughtful Minimum Wage Policy at the State and Local Levels” The Hamilton Project.
- Economic Policy Institute “Raising the federal minimum wage to $10.10 would lift wages for millions and provide a modest economic boost,” 2013
Public Policy: Taxes at the Bottom/EITC

Week 12 (April 3-7)
- Using Differences in Knowledge Across Neighborhoods to Uncover the Impacts of the EITC on Earnings (with John Friedman and Emmanuel Saez), American Economic Review 103(7): 2683-2721, 2013
- Hoynes and Patel “The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Distribution of Income”
- Saez “Do Taxpayers Bunch at Kink Points?” AEJ Policy, August 2010.

Public Policy: Taxes at the Top

Week 13 (April 10-14)
- Ales, L. and Sleet, C., Taxing the Top, Carnegie Mellon working paper 2015
- Rothschild, C. and Scheuer, F., Optimal Taxation with Rent-Seeking, forthcoming, Review of Economic Studies
- Scheuer, F. and Werning, I., The Taxation of Superstars, NBER working paper 2015
- Moretti, E. & Wilson, D. The Effect of State Taxes on the Geographical Location of Top Earners: Evidence from Star Scientists, 2015, Mimeo: UC Berkeley
- CBO, “The Distribution of Major Tax Expenditures in the Individual Income Tax System”

Week 14 (April 17-21)
- Farhi, E. and Werning, I., Inequality and Social Discounting, Journal of Political Economy 2007
- Farhi, E. and Werning, I., Progressive Estate Taxation, Quarterly Journal of Economics 2009

Public Policy: Welfare Reform
Week 15 (April 24-28)
• Paul Ryan: The War on Poverty, fifty years later
• David Frum: Paul Ryan’s obsolete thinking about poverty.
• Robert Greenstein, Ryan “Opportunity Grant” Proposal Would Likely Increase Poverty and Shrink Resources for Poverty Programs Over Time.

Public Policy: Looking Forward
Week 16 - Finals Week
• Report of the Commission on Inclusive Prosperity, Center for American Progress, January 2015

Deliverables
• Student will create a blog and post weekly on the respective topics and if possible how they relate to Indiana.