

Poverty research

Fattigdomsforskning

Facts about the Course	Tuition	Professional Training
Course Code: EMD 293 Number of ECTS: 5	Language of Instruction: English Campus: Velg et element.	Professional Training: No Length of Professional Training: x hours/weeks
Available as Single Course: Yes Type of Course: Velg et element.	Semester: Autumn Compulsory Attendance: Velg et element.	Student Workload
Cycle: Second Cycle (Master)		Scope of Tuition: 21 hours Scope of Self-Study Activities: 119 hours Total Workload: 140 hours
Year of Study Full Time: First year Part Time: Second year Prerequisites:		

Course Content

The course focuses on poverty research and poverty research methods with emphasis on quantitative and comparative methods. The course adopts a global approach where poverty and inequality are discussed in different country contexts with universal concepts and measures. The course also includes a discussion on institutional strategies to escape poverty in various contexts.

Main Subjects

- Central definitions and measures of poverty and inequality
- Causes and consequences of poverty and inequality
- Public attitudes of poverty
- Poverty eradication on an international scale
- Basic income and other new ideas to alleviate poverty
- Data sources for poverty and inequality research (LIS, Eurostat, World Bank)

Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the candidates will following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

Knowledge

The Candidate

- has advanced knowledge of the central concepts and definitions of poverty (subjective, objective, absolute, relative) and inequality (Gini-coefficient, income share).
- can analyse the causes of poverty and inequality on an individual, structural and institutional level
- can identify the consequences of poverty and inequality on an individual societal level, including effects on health and effects on children (intergenerational poverty)
- can critically reflect on local, national and international strategies to reduce poverty including Agenda 2030 goals

Skills

The Candidate

- is able to collect and analyze publicly available data on poverty and inequality, including data on assets (wealth) and debts
- can apply the central concepts of poverty and inequality in a chosen national or local context to discuss poverty and inequality reduction
- understands how aims of different poverty and inequality reduction programs are connected to different poverty and inequality outcomes
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General Competence

The Candidate

- can assess poverty and inequality in international, national and local contexts.
- can communicate the most important strategies to reduce poverty and inequality in a global perspective.

Work and Teaching Methods

- Lectures
- Group work
- As a part of the course participants will prepare a small-scale research project (2500 words or 4000 words if written together with a pair).

Compulsory Activities

- Course attendance (80 %)
- Course work.

Assessment

Form of Assessment	Length	Grade	Weight
Small scale research project	One Semester	A-F	100/100

Additional Information about Assessment

The small-scale research project has a volume of 2500 words +/- 10 % if the students works alone and 400 +/- 10 % if the students work in pairs.

Other

Reading List

Eskelinen, Teppo: Putting Global Poverty in Context. Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2009.

Esping-Andersen, G: "Untying the Gordian Knot of Social Inheritance". Research in Social Stratification and Mobility 21, 115–138, 2004.

Houghton, Jonathan & Khandker, Shahidur R.: The Handbook on Poverty and Inequality, 2009, <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821376133>

Haushofer, J. & Fehr, E. (2014). On the psychology of poverty. Science 344, 862–867.

Hiilamo H. Household Debt and Economic Crises. Causes, Consequences and Remedies. Edward Elgar Publishing (forthcoming).

Hiilamo, H. and Kangas, O. (2014) Cherry picking: How sensitive is the relationship between inequality and social problems to country samples? International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy 31;11/12: 771–792.

Rauhut, Daniel: Den besvärliga fattigdomen: Almqvist & Wiksell International. Stockholm, 2006.

van Oorschot, W. and Halman, L. (2000) 'Blame or fate, individual or social? An international comparison of popular explanations of poverty', European Societies, 2 (1), pp. 1-28.

Thompson, Michael & Wildavsky, Aaron: "A poverty of distinction. From cultural homogeneity to heterogeneity in the classification of poor people". Policy Sciences 19(1986):163–199.

Townsend, Peter: Poverty in the United Kingdom: a survey of household resources and standards of living. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1979.

Wilkinson, Richard & Pickett, Kate: The Spirit Level. Why more equal societies almost always do better. London: Allen Lane, 2009.

World Bank. Monitoring Global Poverty: Report of the Commission on Global Poverty 2017. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC, 20433. USA. <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/atkinsonreport.pdf>