

PPL 891: The Economics and Public Policy of US Poverty
Reading List, Fall 2010
Steven Haider

Unmarked articles are the basis for lecture. Articles marked with an asterisk (*) are for student discussion. L refers to the Lang book, CD refers to the Cancian/Danziger book, and AG refers to the Alesina/Glaeser book.

The Reading List is subject to change, but any changes will be made several weeks in advance of the scheduled week. If you decide to read ahead, ask me about whether any changes are anticipated.

Week 1 (Sept. 8): Introduction

L1, CD1 (1-11)

Week 2 (Sept. 15): The measurement, level, and trend of poverty

L2, L4, CD2

- (*) Bhattacharya, Jayanta, Janet Currie, and Steven J. Haider. 2004. "Poverty, Food Insecurity, and Nutritional Outcomes in Children and Adults." *Journal of Health Economics*, 23(4):839-862.
- (*) Robert Rector. 1998. *The Myth of Widespread American Poverty*. The Heritage Foundation.
- (*) Sylvia Allegretto. 2005. *Basic Family Budgets: Working Families' Incomes Often Fail to Meet Living Expenses in the U.S.* Economic Policy Institute.

Week 3 (Sept. 22): The macro economy and poverty

CD3

- Hilary Hoynes, Marianne Page, and Ann Huff Stevens. 2006. *Poverty in America: Trends and Explanations*. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
- (*) David Card and John DiNardo. 2005. *The Impact of Technological Change on Low-Wage Workers: A Review*. Working paper version from *Working and Poor* (eds., Blank, Danziger, and Schoeni).
- (*) Robert E. Hall. 2005. *The Macroeconomy and Determinants of the Earnings of Less-Skilled Workers*. In *Working and Poor* (eds., Blank, Danziger, and Schoeni).

Week 4 (Sept. 29): Consequences of poverty / Mobility

CD6, CD7

- Duncan, Greg. 2006. *Income and Child Well-Being*. Geary Lecture, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin, Ireland.
- (*) David Blau. 1999. *The Effect of Income on Child Development*. *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

PPL 891: The Economics and Public Policy of US Poverty
Reading List, Fall 2010
Steven Haider

- (*) Pamela Morris, Greg Duncan, and Christopher Rodrigues. 2004. Does Money Really Matter? Estimating Impacts of Family Income on Children's Achievement from Random-Assignment Experiments.
- (*) Jens Ludwig and Susan Mayer. 2006. "Culture" and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty. *The Future of Children*. 16(2).

Week 5 (Oct. 6): Evolution of poverty policy

L3, CD8

- Janet Currie. 2003. Food and Nutrition Programs. Working paper version of chapter in Robert Moffitt's Means-Tested Transfer Programs in the United States.
- (*) Robert Moffitt. 2007. Four Decades of Antipoverty Policy: Past Developments and Future Directions. *Focus* 25(1).
 - (*) Thomas Fraker, Alberto Martini, and James Ohls. 1995. The Effect of Food Stamp Cashout on Food Expenditures. *Journal of Human Resources*.
 - (*) Parke Wilde and Mark Nord. 2005. The Effect of Food Stamps on Food Security: A Panel Data Approach. *Review of Agricultural Economics*. 27(3).

Week 6 (Oct. 13): Labor market policies

L5, CD11

- (*) Robert Moffitt. 2003. The Negative Income Tax and the Evolution of U.S. Welfare Policy. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
- (*) V. Joseph Hotz and John Karl Scholz. 2000. Not Perfect, But Still Pretty Good. *OECD Economic Studies*.
- (*) David Neumark, Mark Scheitzer, and William Wascher. 1999. Will Increasing the Minimum Wage Help the Poor? *Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Economic Commentary*.

Week 7 (Oct. 20): Family composition

L6, CD4, CD9

- (*) Arline Geronimus, Sanders Korenman, and Marianne Millemeier. 1994. Does Young Maternal Age Adversely Affect Child Development? Evidence from Cousin Comparisons in the United States. *Population and Development* 20(3).
- (*) Joseph Hotz, Susan McElroy, and Seth Sanders. 2002. Teenage Childbearing and Its Life Cycle Consequences: Exploiting a Natural Experiment. *Journal of Human Resources*.
- (*) Christopher Jencks. 1995. Do Poor Women Have the Right to Bear Children? *The American Prospect*, Vol. 6, No. 20.

PPL 891: The Economics and Public Policy of US Poverty
Reading List, Fall 2010
Steven Haider

Week 8 (Oct. 27): Concentrated poverty

L7

- (*) Jen Ludwig, Jeffrey Liebman, et al. 2008. What Can We Learn about Neighborhood Effects from the Moving to Opportunity Experiments? *American Journal of Sociology*.
- (*) David Neumark and Jed Kolko. Forthcoming. Do Enterprise Zones Create Jobs? Evidence from California's Enterprise Zone Program. *Journal of Urban Economics*.

Week 9 (Nov. 3): Education and education reform

L8, CD10

- Lynn Karoly and Rebecca Kilburn. 2005. Proven Benefits of Early Childhood Interventions. RAND Research Brief.
- (*) Charles Murray. 2009. Intelligence and College. *National Affairs*.
 - (*) Marcus Winters. 2009. Send More Students to College. *National Review*.
 - (*) Thomas Kane and Douglas Staiger. 2002. The Promise and Pitfalls of Using Imprecise School Accountability Measures. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
 - (*) Brian Jacob. 2003. Getting Inside Accountability. *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs*.

Week 10 (Nov. 10): Welfare reform

L9

- Jeff Grogger, Lynn Karoly, and Jacob Klerman. 2002. Conflicting Benefits: Trade-Offs in Welfare Reform. RAND Research Brief.
- (*) Rebecca Blank. 2007. Improving the Safety Net for Single Mothers Who Face Serious Barriers to Work. *Future of Children* 17(2).
 - (*) Maria Cancian, Daniel Meyer, and Deborah Reed. 2010. Promising Antipoverty Strategies for Families. *Poverty and Public Policy*.
 - (*) Urban Institute Fact Sheet. 2006. A Decade of Welfare Reform: Facts and Figures.
 - (*) Joseph Persky. 1997. Classical Family Values: Ending the Poor Laws as They Knew Them. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

Week 11 (Nov. 17): Race 1

L10-L12

- Laura Giuliano, David Levine, and Jonathan Leonard. 2009. Manager Race and the Race of New Hires. *Journal of Labor Economics*.
- (*) Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan. 2004. Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? *American Economic Review*.

PPL 891: The Economics and Public Policy of US Poverty
Reading List, Fall 2010
Steven Haider

- (*) Roland Fryer and Steven Levitt. 2004. The Causes and Consequences of Distinctively Black Names. Quarterly Journal of Economics.
- (*) Roland Fryer and Glen Loury. 2005. Affirmative Action and its Mythology. Journal of Economic Perspectives.

Week 12 (Nov. 24): Race 2/AG Intro

L13

John Yinger. 1998. Evidence on Discrimination in Consumer Markets. Journal of Economic Perspectives.

AG-1

- (*) Justin McCrary. 2007. The Effect of Court-Ordered Hiring Quotas on the Composition and Quality of Police. American Economic Review. (NOTE: I will help with the methods explanation)
- (*) Roland Fryer. 2010. Racial Inequality in the 21st Century: The Declining Significance of Discrimination. NBER Working Paper 16256.

Week 13 (Dec. 1): Poverty policy in US vs. Europe I

(ALL) AG2-AG8 (NOTE: we'll assign students to specific chapters for this week to aid in covering the book)

Week 14 (Dec. 8): Student paper presentations