

Economics 495: Course Schedule and Reading List
Steven Haider

Fall 2005

NOTE: Please check the course website frequently to ensure you have an up-to-date version of the reading list.

This list contains the reading material for each unit. The required reading is fair game for the exams. The course schedule on the next page indicates when the various units will be covered.

Every effort was made to have the hyperlinks work. If they do not, you should try to find it by typing the exact title into a search engine such as Google or by going to the various homepages directly to search for the document (many of the homepages are in the table at the bottom of this page). If you still have difficulties, contact me by email so I can send you the link directly.

I use the following abbreviations throughout the reading list.

- DH: Danziger's and Haveman's *Understanding Poverty*
- B: Blank's *It Takes a Nation*
- AG: Alesina's and Glaeser's *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe*
- JSTOR: The Scholarly Journal Archive. Available from all campus computers at <http://www.jstor.org/jstor/>
- MSUEL: MSU Electronic Library. Available from all campus computers at <http://er.lib.msu.edu/ejour.cfm>

Homepages for Institutes and Organizations

Administration for Children and Families, DHHS	www.acf.dhhs.gov
American Enterprise Institute	www.aei.org
Brookings Institution	www.brookings.edu
Bureau of Labor Statistics	www.bls.gov
Cato Institute	www.cato.org
Census Bureau	www.census.gov
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	www.cbpp.org
Center for Law and Social Policy	www.clasp.org
Economic Policy Institute	www.epinet.org
Employment Policies Institute	www.epionline.org
Heritage Foundation	www.heritage.org
Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)	www.ssw.wisc.edu/~irp/
Joint Center for Poverty Research (JCPR)	www.jcpr.org
National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)	www.nber.org
National Poverty Center (NPC)	www.npc.umich.edu
Population Reference Bureau	www.prb.org
RAND	www.rand.org

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The following is the schedule for when we cover each unit. There will be changes to the schedule and the reading list, but any changes will be made at least a week previous to us beginning the unit.

Week	Dates	Events	Topic
1	Aug. 29/31		Introduction
2	Sept. 5/7	Labor Day TBA	TBA
3	Sept. 12/14		The measurement, level and trends of poverty
4	Sept. 19/21		Poverty and demography
5	Sept. 26/28		Poverty and the macroeconomy
6	Oct. 3/5		Consequences of poverty
7	Oct. 10/12		Overview of government policies
8	Oct. 17/19		Welfare/welfare reform
9	Oct. 24/26	Exam	Work policies
10	Oct. 31/2		Marriage and fertility policies
11	Nov. 7/9		Race and poverty
12	Nov. 14/16		Inequality
13	Nov. 21/23		Poverty in an international context
14	Nov. 28/30		"Fighting Poverty"
15	Dec. 5/7	"Your Turn" due	Discuss "Your Turn" essays

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Articles marked with an asterisk (*) should be ignored for your reading review essay. However, you should still read all of the articles and be prepared to answer general questions on them.

Introduction

DH-Introduction (p. 1-8)

B-Introduction

Daniel Lichter and Marth Crowley. 2002. Poverty in America: Beyond Welfare Reform. Population Bulletin. <http://www.prb.org/pdf/PovertyInAmerica.pdf>

The measurement, level, and trend of poverty

DH-1

Robert Triest. 1998. Has Poverty Gotten Worse? Journal of Economic Perspectives, 12(1). [JSTOR]

Maya Federman et al. 1996. What Does it Mean To Be Poor in America? Monthly Labor Review. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1996/05/art1full.pdf>

Robert Rector. 1998. The Myth of Widespread American Poverty. The Heritage Foundation. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/PoliticalPhilosophy/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=20445>

(*) Special Issue of Focus: Revising the Poverty Measure. 1998. (p. 1-9, 16-20). <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/focus/foc192.pdf>.

Demography and poverty

Suzanne Bianchi and Lynne Casper. 2000. American Families. Population Bulletin. <http://www.prb.org/Template.cfm?Section=PRBLibrary&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5885>

DH-2

B-1

(*) Jeff Chapman and Jared Bernstein. 2003. Immigration and Poverty: How Are They Linked? Monthly Labor Review. 2003. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2003/04/art2full.pdf>

The macroeconomy and poverty

DH-3

B-2

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John Iceland. 2003. Why Poverty Remains High: The Role of Income Growth, Economic Inequality, and Changes in Family Structure, 1949 – 1999. Demography.

<http://www.prb.org/cpipr/demography/Iceland.pdf>

(*) David Card and John DiNardo. 2002. Technology and U.S. Wage Inequality: A Brief Look. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Economic Review.

http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/dinardo_q302.pdf

The consequences of poverty

DH-4

Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Greg J. Duncan. 1997. The Effects of Poverty on Children.

http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/vol7no2ART4%2Epdf

Arline Geronimus, Sanders Korenman, and Marianne Hillemeier. 1994. Does Young Maternal Age Adversely Affect Child Development? Population and Development Review, Vol. 20, No. 3. [JSTOR]

(*) 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.

<http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/publications/papers/2004/duncan/1doesmoneymatter.pdf>

Overview of government poverty policies

DH-6, 9

B-3, 4

Welfare and welfare reform

Jeff Grogger, Lynn Karoly, and Jacob Klerman. 2002. Conflicting Benefits: Trade-offs in Welfare Reform. RAND.

<http://www.rand.org/publications/randreview/issues/rr.12.02/benefits.html>

Christopher Jencks. 2004. Liberal Lessons from Welfare Reform. The American Prospect.

<http://www.prospect.org/web/printfriendly-view.wv?id=6376>

Douglas Besharov and Peter Germanis. 2000. Welfare Reform: Four Years Later. Public Interest, summer 2000.

<http://www.thepublicinterest.com/archives/2000summer/article2.html>

(*) DH-7

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Work policies

[NOTE: for your reading review, cover the first two articles and then choose between the (a) articles, (b) articles, OR (c) article]

V. Joseph Hotz and John Karl Scholz. 2000. Not Perfect, But Still Pretty Good. OECD Economic Studies. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/6/2697856.pdf>

David T. Ellwood. 1999. The Plight of the Working Poor. The Brookings Institution. <http://www.brook.edu/comm/childrensroundtable/issue2.pdf>

(a) David Neumark, Mark Scheitzer, and William Wascher. 1999. Will Increasing the Minimum Wage Help the Poor? Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Economic Commentary. <http://www.clevelandfed.org/Research/com99/0201.pdf>

(a) Mark Turner and Burn Barnow. 2003. Living Wage and Earned Income Tax Credit: A Comparative Analysis. Employment Policies Institute. http://www.epionline.org/studies/turner_01-2003.pdf

(a) Amy Chasanov. 2004. No Longer Getting By: An Increase in the Minimum Wage is Long Overdue. Economic Policy Institute. <http://www.epinet.org/briefingpapers/151/bp151.pdf>

(b) Brian Riedl and Robert Rector. 2002. Myths and Facts: Why Successful Welfare Reform Must Strengthen Work Requirements. The Heritage Foundation. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=4009>

(b) Low Wage America: Two Views. Winter 2005. Public Interest. (two short articles on the same issue). Marvin Kosters, Up from the bottom rung. Ronald Ferguson, The working-poverty trap. [MSUEL]

(c) Robert Moffitt. 2003. The Negative Income Tax the Evolution of U.S. Welfare Policy. Journal of Economic Perspectives 17:3. [Angel]

Marriage and fertility policies

[NOTE: for your reading review, you should cover the exchange between Geronimus and Furstenberg AND 1 articles from the (a) list AND 1 article from the (b) list.]

[NOTE: you may want to review Geronimus, Korenman, and Hillemeier from the unit **Consequences of Poverty**]

An exchange between Frank Furstenberg and Arline Geronimus in Family Relations, 1991 and 1992. (1) Furstenberg. As the Pendulum Swings. 40:2. (2) Geronimus. Teenage Childbearing and Social and Reproductive Disadvantage. 40:4. (3) Furstenberg. Teenage Childbearing and Cultural Rationality: A Thesis in Search of Evidence. 41:2. (4) Geronimus. Teenage Childbearing and Social Disadvantage: Unprotected Discourse. 41:2.

(a) Isabell Sawhill. 2002. The perils of early motherhood. Public Interest. Winter. [MSUEL]

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- (a) James Q. Wilson. Why We Don't Marry. http://www.city-journal.org/html/12_1_why_we.html
- (a) Patrick Fagan. 2001. The Federal and State Governments, Welfare and Marriage Issues. Heritage Foundation. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/Test052201.cfm>
- (b) Christopher Jencks. 1995. Do Poor Women Have the Right to Bear Children? The American Prospect, Vol. 6, No. 20. <http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V6/20/jencks-c.html>
- (b) Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller. 2002. Let Them Eat Wedding Rings. Alternatives to Marriage Project. <http://www.unmarried.org/rings.pdf>
- (*) Richard Wertheimer and Angela Papillo. 2004. An Update on State Policy Initiatives to Reduce Teen and Adult Nonmarital Childbearing. Urban Institute. http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311049_A-66.pdf
- (*) Multiple Partner Fertility. 2002. Fragile Families Research Brief #8. <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/briefs/ResearchBrief8.pdf>

Race

[NOTE: for your reading review, you should choose 3 articles to review.]

- John Yinger. 1998. Evidence on Discrimination in Consumer Markets. Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 12(2). [JSTOR]
- William Darity Jr. and Patrick Mason. 1998. Evidence on Discrimination in Employment: Codes of Color, Codes of Gender. Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 12(2). [JSTOR]
- Glenn Loury. 1998. "Discrimination in the Post-Civil Rights Era: Beyond Market Interactions." Journal of Economic Perspectives. [JSTOR]
- James Heckman. 1998. Detecting Discrimination. Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 12(2). [JSTOR]
- Robert Rector, Kirk Johnson, and Patrick Fagan. 2001. Understanding Differences in Black and White Child Poverty Rates. The Heritage Foundation. <http://new.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=8667>
- Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan. 2003. Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? NBER. http://economics.uchicago.edu/download/_DISCRIMINATION.pdf

Inequality

[NOTE: for your reading review, you should cover 2 articles from the (a) list AND 1 article from the (b) list—for a total of 3 articles.]

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- (a) Richard Freeman. 1995. Solving the New Inequality. Boston Review. (including all of the responses) <http://bostonreview.net/BR21.6/BR21.6.html>
- (a) Christopher Jencks. 2002. Does Inequality Matter? Daedalus. <http://www.amacad.org/publications/winter2002/Jencks.pdf>
- (a) Finis Welch. 1999. In Defense of Inequality. American Economic Review. May. [JSTOR]
- (b) Martin Feldstein. 1999. Reducing Poverty, Not Inequality. Public Interest. Fall. [MSUEL]
- (b) Charles Murray. A Stroll through the Income Distribution. The American Enterprise Institute. http://www.taemag.com/docLib/20030304_stroll.pdf
- (*) Everett Carol Ladd and Karlyn Bowman. 1998. Attitudes towards Economic Inequality. The American Enterprise Institute. [Angel]

Poverty in an International Context

- Peter Gottschalk and Timothy Smeeding. 1997. Cross-National Comparisons of Earnings and Income Inequality. Journal of Economic Literature, 35:2. [JSTOR]
- Joseph Persky. 1997. Classical Family Values: Ending the Poor Laws as They Knew Them. Journal of Economic Perspectives. [JSTOR]
- World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty. [Angel]
- (*) Peter Singer. 1999. The Singer Solution to World Poverty. NY Times Magazine, Sept. 9. [Angel]

Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe

[NOTE: for your reading review, you should review Chapter 2 and choose 2 chapters from 3 through 7]

AG-whole book

(*) Book reviews:

- http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=2498947
- http://www.richmondfed.org/publications/economic_research/region_focus/spring_2005/book_review.cfm