

Syllabus
WWS 594e: Poverty and Public Policy
Spring 2005

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Course Web Site:

http://blackboard.princeton.edu/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=6271_1&frame=top

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the nature and causes of poverty in the United States and other western industrialized countries. Topics include: measuring poverty, the emergence of the US welfare state, comparative welfare states, the role of family structure in reproducing poverty, racial disparities in the development of human capital, and the role of neighborhoods in reproducing poverty.

II. REQUIREMENTS

Students will prepare written comments on the readings each week and will be responsible for discussing their comments in class. There will be a final take-home exam. Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Written comments	25%
Class participation	25%
Final exam	50%

III. BOOKS, READINGS, AND WEBSITES

Books may be purchased from the Princeton University Store and are also available on reserve at the Public and International Affairs & Population Research Library <http://libweb2.princeton.edu/stokes/main.htm> in Wallace Hall. All other materials are available on reserve at this library or at the cited web sites.

Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman (Eds.) 2001. *Understanding Poverty*. Russell Sage Foundation & Harvard University Press.

Frank Castle 2004. *The Future of the Welfare State: Crisis Myths and Crisis Realities*.
Oxford University Press.

Cecilia Rouse, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Sara McLanahan (Eds.). 2005. *School
Readiness: Closing the Race/Ethnic Test Score Gap: The Future of Children*.
Brookings Press. <http://crcw.princeton.edu/foc/testscoregap/drafts.asp> .

Isabel Sawhill, Isabel, Kent Weaver, Andrea Kane, and Ron Haskins (Eds.) 2002.
Welfare Reform and Beyond. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.
<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/princeton/Doc?id=10026230>

Useful Websites

Census – Poverty Reports – <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>

National Poverty Center – U. Michigan-- <http://www.npc.umich.edu/>

Institute for Research on Poverty - <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/>

Joint Center for Poverty Research – <http://www.jcpr.org/>

Luxembourg Income Study – <http://www.lisproject.org/>

Innocenti Research Center – <http://www.unicef-icdc.org/>

Fragile Families Study – <http://crcw.princeton.edu/fragilefamilies/>

Three Cities Study-- <http://www.jhu.edu/~welfare/>

LA Neighborhood Study-- <http://www.lasurvey.rand.org/>

The Urban Institute – New Federalism Project <http://newfederalism.urban.org>

Center for Law and Social Policy- <http://www.clasp.org/>

WEEK 1: TRENDS, DYNAMICS, AND CAUSES

Sheldon Danziger and Robert Havemen, Introduction in *Understanding Poverty*.

Gary Burtless and Timothy Smeeding, Chapter 1 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Mary Corcoran, Chapter 4 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Review “Frequently Asked Questions”

National Poverty Center <http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/>

Institute for Research on Poverty <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/faqs/faq6.htm>

Daniel Lichter and Martha L. Crowley. 2002. “Poverty in American.” *Population Bulletin*.
<http://www.prb.org/Template.cfm?Section=PRBLibrary&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=6084>

WEEK 2: POVERTY AND FAMILY STRUCTURE

Sara McLanahan. “Diverging Destinies: How Children Fare Under the Second Demographic Transition.” *Demography*. 41(4): 607-627.
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/demography/v041/41.4mclanahan.pdf> (electronic library)

Maria Cancian and Deborah Reed. Chapter 2 in *Understanding Poverty*.

David Fein et al. 2003. “The Determinants of Marriage and Cohabitation Among Disadvantaged Americans.”
http://www.abtassoc.com/reports/litrev_abt.pdf#search='Determinants%20of%20Marriage%20and%20Cohabitation%20Among%20Disadvantaged%20Americans (electronic library)

Paul Amato. 2005. “The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social and Emotional Wellbeing of the Next Generation.” forthcoming in *Marriage and Child Wellbeing: The Future of Children*. (electronic library)

Lisa Gennetian and Virginia Knox. 2003. “Staying Single: The Effects of Welfare Reform Policies on Marriage and Cohabitation”
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/373/overview.html>

Cynthia Miller et al. “The Interaction of Child Support and TANF”
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/397/execsum.html>

Robin Dion, Barbara Devany, and Alan Hershey. 2004. Toward Interventions to Strengthen Relationships and Build Healthy Marriages Among Unwed New Parents. 2004. <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/healthymarriage.pdf>

WEEK 3: POVERTY AND EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Cecilia Rouse, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Sara McLanahan (eds.) 2005. *School Readiness: Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps: The Future of Children*. Washington DC. The Brookings Press. <http://crrw.princeton.edu/foc/testscoregap/drafts.asp> .

Lynn Karoly, Chapter 9 in *Understanding Poverty*

WEEK 4: POVERTY AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS

Steven Durlauf, Chapter 11 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Ron Ferguson, Chapter 12 in *Understanding Poverty*

Anne Pebley and Narayan Sastry. “Neighborhood Poverty and Children’s Wellbeing: a Review” Rand Working Paper. 2003.
http://www.rand.org/labor/DRU/DRU3001_NICHD.pdf

Paul Jargowsky, 2003. “Stunning Progress, Hidden Problems: The Dramatic Decline of Concentrated Poverty in the 1990s.”
<http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/publications/jargowskypoverty.htm>

Selected readings on the Moving to Opportunities Program
<http://www.wps.princeton.edu/~kling/mto/recent.html>

- Liebman, Jeffrey B., Lawrence F. Katz, and Jeffrey R. Kling. August 2004. “Beyond Treatment Effects: Estimating the Relationship between Neighborhood Poverty and Individual Outcomes in the MTO Experiment..”
- Sanbonmatsu, Lisa, Jeanne-Brooks-Gunn, Greg J. Duncan, and Jeffrey R. Kling. August 2004. Neighborhoods and Academic Achievement: Results from the MTO Experiment.
- Kling, Jeffrey R., Jens Ludwig, and Lawrence F. Katz. August 2004. Neighborhood Effects on Crime for Female and Male Youth: Evidence from a Randomized Housing Voucher Experiment.

WEEK 5: THE U.S. WELFARE STATE

Irv Garfinkel and Sara McLanahan, Chapter 4 in *Single Mothers and Their Children*.

Karl Scholz and Kara Levine. Chapter 6 in *Understanding Poverty*. Pavetti. Chapter 7 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Selection readings from Isabel Sawhill, Isabel, Kent Weaver, Andrea Kane, and Ron Haskins (Eds.). 2002. *Welfare Reform and Beyond*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.

Recommended

Johannas Bos et al. 2001. "How Welfare and Work Policies Affect Children."
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/100/execsum.html>

Elizabeth Clark-Kauffman et al. 2002. "How Welfare and Work Policies for Parents Affect Adolescents." <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/69/overview.html>

WEEK 6: COMPARATIVE WELFARE STATES.

Josta Esping-Anderson 1992. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Chapter 1. (electronic library)

Frank Castle 2004. *The Future of the Welfare State: Crisis Myths and Crisis Realities*. Oxford University Press.

Timothy Smeeding, Lee Rainwater, and Gary Burtless. Chapter 5 in *Understanding Poverty*.