Syllabus for HLE-512/Gov 2340: Spring 2007
Proseminar on Inequality and Social Policy

Wednesdays, 2:10 to 4 PM
124 Mount Auburn St. Suite 100

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Prerequisites: Students may take HLE-512/Gov 2340 only if they have taken HLE-511/Soc 296a.

The first half of the spring semester will be led by Kathryn Edin and Christopher Jencks. It will focus on policies related to equal opportunity. Specifically, it will consider the effects of family structure, parental SES, genes, race, gender, and residential segregation on children's economic prospects and what can be done to reduce these effects.

The second half of the spring semester, led by Torben Iversen, will examine the politics of redistribution in rich democracies from a comparative perspective.

Organization of spring classes:

The first meeting of the spring semester will be on Wednesday January 31. This will be a regular class, with assigned readings and memos.

During the first seven weeks we will vary the format slightly from the fall. At least initially, Edin and Jencks will take responsibility for starting each class with a discussion of salient points raised by the memos. Students will be expected to do six memos for these seven classes. ***Memos are due by 9AM on the Monday before class.*** Late memos will not count.

Copies of readings: Most of the readings for the first seven weeks will be available on a CD in the Kennedy School library. **You can make one copy of this CD for your own use or copy its contents directly onto your laptop if you have one. Reproducing the CD for any other purpose is illegal.**

The CD contains both the required and recommended readings. You should read all the required papers. You should also read **at least** the abstract of each recommended paper and take it into account in your memo if it seems relevant.

The following books are ***not*** on the CD and should be bought from Amazon:

Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep* (University of California, 2005)
Susan E. Mayer, *What Money Can't Buy* (Harvard, 1997)

To save on shipping and ensure that you have copies when you need them, order these well in advance. You can also save on shipping by buying several copies at once.

Professor Iversen's readings will be available on the official course website for Gov2340: www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/5491. Simply click the underlined readings for each week. **The online reading list for this part of the course is always the official reading list (not the printed version).**

The following books are ***not*** on the course CD or the website. They should all be bought from Amazon.

1. Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep* (University of California, 2005)
2. Susan E. Mayer, *What Money Can't Buy* (Harvard, 1997)
3. Gøsta Esping-Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton 1990).
4. Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe* (Oxford 2003).
5. Dani Rodrik, *Has Globalization Gone Too Far?* (Washington DC: Institute for International Economics, 1997).

Grades: A third of your spring grade will be based on your weekly memos and participation. The other two-thirds will be based on your paper.

Papers:

Those who want to get a June degree must submit their research paper by May 17 to be sure of getting a grade in time to graduate. Those who plan to take the third semester of the proseminar next fall can get an extension and work on their paper during the summer, **but you must ask your advisor for an extension and agree on a due date**. The normal deadline for submitting your second semester paper is July 15, which ensures adequate time for your advisor to read and grade your paper, suggest revisions, and allow

you to make these revisions prior to the deadline for submission of your revised paper for HLE-513. **Papers for HLE-513 are officially due on September 1.**

Your presentation date will be the date on which your commentator is scheduled to speak in the Monday seminar. This date cannot be changed. **You must distribute your paper to your commentator, your classmates, and Bill Wilson at least two weeks before your presentation date. Students with very early presentation dates may therefore be unable to get an extension beyond September 1. Others may be able to negotiate with their advisor for additional time.**

You will have 20 minutes to present your paper in HLE-513. The speaker from the Monday seminar will then comment for about 20 minutes, and there will be 20 minutes of open discussion. You will also be expected to attend your classmates' presentations and provide written comments on their papers prior to their presentations. The second hour of each seminar will focus on the outside speaker's paper. You will be expected to comment on an outside speaker's paper at some point during the fall.

All papers should be submitted electronically. If your advisor also wants a paper copy, you should provide that as well.

Length: Papers should not exceed 15,000 words, excluding appendices.

Format. Double space with 1.25 inch margins, so readers have plenty of room to scribble comments on their copy. **Don't forget to paginate your paper so that your readers can refer to specific pages.**

Abstract. **Your paper should have an abstract that says what its main point is.**

File names. **File names should start with your last name, include a short title, and the submission date** (e.g. "Wolfers divorce 9-9-99").

Charts and tables. Excel charts and tables should be pasted into your manuscript, *not* sent as separate Excel files. The best way to paste Excel tables and charts is usually to copy them in Excel, go to your Word document, and click "Edit," "Paste Special," and "Picture." You should print a clean copy of your paper and look it over before submitting it, to be sure that this process has worked. You can simplify subsequent revisions of your paper by including the number of each table or figure as text in your Word document rather than in the Excel picture.

Spell checking and table checking. If you want people to read your paper carefully, you have to convey the impression that you have read it carefully yourself. A paper that has not been spell checked creates the impression that you couldn't be bothered.

You should also check charts and tables to be sure that your numbers look reasonable. Including numbers that cannot possibly be correct – means and standard deviations that defy common sense, for example -- suggests that you either don't know or don't care whether your empirical work is correct.

Readings for HLE-512/Gov 2340: Spring 2007

Jan 31: Why aren't more children living with their fathers? (Kathryn Edin, Penn)

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1. Gary Burtless, "Effects of Growing Wage Disparities and Changing Family Composition on the US Income Distribution," *European Economic Review* (1999) 43:853-65.
2. Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep*, University of California, 2005, pp1-220. **Buy from Amazon.**
3. Gary Becker, *A Treatise on the Family* (Harvard Press, 1991 edition), pp30-53.
4. Andrew Cherlin, "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* (Nov. 2004) 66:848–61.
5. Marcia Carlson, Paula England, and Sara McLanahan, "Union Formation in Fragile Families," *Demography* (May 2004) 41:237-61.

Also recommended:

6. Shelley Lundberg and Robert Pollak, "Bargaining and Distribution in Marriage," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Fall 1996) 10:139-58.

Feb 7: Family structure, welfare, and poverty (Edin & Jencks)

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1. David T. Ellwood and Christopher Jencks, "The Uneven Spread of Single-Parent Families: What Do We Know? Where Do We Look for Answers?" pp3-78 in Kathryn Neckerman, ed. *Social Inequality*, Russell Sage (2004).
2. Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein, *Making Ends Meet*, NY Russell Sage, 1997, pp ix-xxvii, 20-59, 88-119, and 143-191.
3. Christopher Jencks, Susan Mayer, and Joseph Swingle, "Can we fix the federal poverty measure so it provides reliable information about changes in children's living conditions?" Kennedy School Working Paper (Sept 2004), 41pp.
4. Moffitt, Robert. "The Effect of Welfare on Marriage and Fertility" in Robert Moffitt, ed. *Welfare, the Family, and Reproductive Behavior* (National Academy Press, 1998), pp50-51 and 59-97.

Also recommended:

5. Jason DeParle, *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and the Drive to End Welfare* (Penguin, 2004), pp175-263.
6. Christopher Jencks, "What Happened to Welfare?" *New York Review of Books* (12/15/05) and Block-Jencks exchange of letters in the *New York Review*.

Feb 14: Effects of family background and parental income (Edin and Jencks)

1. Emily Beller and Michael Hout, "Intergenerational Social Mobility: The United States in Comparative Perspective." *The Future of Children* (Fall 2006) 16:19-36.
2. David Harding, Christopher Jencks, Leonard Lopoo, and Susan E. Mayer, "The Changing Effect of Family Background on the Incomes of American Adults," in Samuel Bowles, Herbert Gintis, and Melissa Osborne Groves, eds. *Unequal Chances: Family Background and Economic Success,* Princeton University Press and Russell Sage, 2005, pp 100-144.
3. Susan E. Mayer, *What Money Can't Buy*, Harvard University Press (1997), pp1-4 and 39-142 plus notes on pp193 and 198-209. **Buy from Amazon.**
4. Pamela Morris, Greg Duncan, and Christopher Rodrigues, "Does Money Really Matter? Estimating Impacts of Family Income on Young Children's Achievement with Data from Random-Assignment Experiments," MDRC (Jan. 2006), 35pp.
5. Annette Lareau, "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families," *American Sociological Review* (Oct 2002) 67:747-76.
6. Christopher Jencks and Laura Tach, "Would Equal Opportunity Mean More Mobility?" pp23-58 in Stephen Morgan, David Grusky, and Gary Fields, eds. *Mobility and Inequality: Frontiers of Research in Sociology and Economics.*" Stanford University Press, 2006.

Also recommended:

7. Gordon Dahl and Lance Lochner, "The Impact of Family Income on Child Achievement," NBER w11279 (April 2005), 55pp.
8. Jonathan Gardner and Andrew J. Oswald, "Money and mental wellbeing: A longitudinal study of medium-sized lottery wins," *Journal of Health Economics* (forthcoming).

Feb 21: Genes and equal opportunity (Edin and Jencks)

1. Christopher Jencks, *Rethinking Social Policy*, Harvard (1992), pp92-111, **or** Christopher Jencks, "Heredity, Environment, and Public Policy Reconsidered," *American Sociological Review* (Oct. 1980) 45:723-736 .
2. Robert Plomin and Denise Daniels, "Why Are Children in the Same Family So Different from One Another?" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (1987) 10:1-16.
3. Thomas Bouchard *et al.* "Sources of Human Psychological Differences: The Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart," *Science* (Oct. 12, 1990) 250:223-228.
4. Robert Plomin, Robin Corley, J.C. DeFries, and D.W. Fulker, "Individual Differences in Television Viewing in Early Childhood: Nature as Well as Nurture," *Psychological Science* (Nov 1990) 1: 371-77.
5. Christiane Capron and Michel Duyme, "Assessment of Effects of Socioeconomic Status on IQ in a Full Cross-Fostering Study." *Nature* (17 August 1989) 340:552-53.
6. Eric Turkheimer et al. "Socioeconomic Status Modifies Heritability of IQ in Young Children." *Psychological Science* (Nov 2003) 14:623-28.
7. Anders Björklund, Marcus Jäntti, and Gary Solon, "Influences of Nature and Nurture on Earnings Variation: A Report on a Study of Various Sibling Types in Sweden, " pp145-64 in Samuel Bowles, Herbert Gintis, and Melissa Osborne Groves, *Unequal Chances: Family Background and Economic Success*, Russell Sage and Princeton (2005).
8. Paul Taubman, "The Determinants of Earnings: Genetics, Family, and Other Environments: A Study of White Male Twins." *American Economic Review*, (Dec. 1976) 66:858-70. ***Read only pp 862-65*.**
9. Sandra Scarr and Richard Weinberg, "The Influence of Family Background on Intellectual Attainment," *American Sociological Review* (Oct. 1978) 43:674-92. ***Read only pp 676-81*.**

Feb 28: Labor market discrimination (Edin & Jencks)

1. David Neumark, "Sex Discrimination in Restaurant Hiring: An Audit Study," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (Aug. 1996) 111:915-41.
2. Paula England and Nancy Folbre, "Gender and Economic Sociology," in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg, eds. *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, Russell Sage and Princeton, 2005, pp627-49.
3. Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan, "Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination," *American Economic Review* (Sept 2004) 94:991-1013.
4. Devah Pager, "The Mark of a Criminal Record," *American Journal of Sociology* (March 2003) 108:937-75.
5. Christopher Jencks, "Racial Bias in Testing," in Jencks and Meredith Phillips, eds. *The Black-White Test Score Gap*, Brookings (1998), pp 52-83.
6. ***Reread*** Johnson and Neal, "Basic Skills and the Black-White Earnings Gap," in *The Black-White Test Score Gap*, pp480-97.

Also recommended:

7. Sandra Susan Smith, "Don't put my name on it": Social Capital Activation and Job-Finding Assistance among the Black Urban Poor," *American Journal of Sociology* (July 2005) 111:1-57.
8. David Figlio, "Names, Expectations and the Black-White Test Score Gap," (March 2005) NBERw11195, 31pp.

March 7: Affirmative Action (Frank Dobbin, Dept of Sociology)

1. John Donohue and James Heckman, "Continuous versus Episodic Change: The Impact of Civil Rights Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks," *Journal of Economic Literature* (Dec. 1991) 29:1603-43.
2. Christopher Jencks, *Rethinking Social Policy* (Harvard, 1992) pp24-69.
3. Harry Holzer and David Neumark "Affirmative Action: What Do We Know?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (2006) 25(2) 463-90.
4. *New York Times*, "Excerpts from Justices' Opinions on Michigan Affirmative Action Cases." 6pp.
5. Alexandra Kalev, Frank Dobbin, and Erin Kelley, "Best Practices or Best Guesses? Assessing the Efficacy of Corporate Affirmative Action and Diversity Policies," *American Sociological Review* (Aug 2006) 71: 589-617.
6. Selected tables from Jeffrey Stonecash et al, "Inequality and the American Public: Results of the Third Annual Maxwell Poll" (October 2006), available at http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/campbell/Poll/Index.htm.

March 14: Causes and effects of residential segregation (Edin & Jencks)

1. William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged* (Chicago, 1987), pp3-61.
2. Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass* (Harvard, 1993) pp83-114.
3. David Cutler, Edward Glaeser, and Jacob Vigdor, "The Rise and Decline of the American Ghetto," *Journal of Political Economy* (1999) 107(3): 457-506.
4. David Cutler and Edward Glaeser, "Are Ghettos Good or Bad?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (August 1997) 112: 827-72. **You can skip section 2.3 (pp 830-34) and the "Theory Appendix" (pp 865-69).**
5. Micere Keels et al, "Fifteen Years Later: Can Residential Mobility Programs Provide a Long-Term Escape from Neighborhood Segregation, Crime, and Poverty?" *Demography* (Feb. 2005) 42:51-73
6. Jeffrey Kling, Jeffrey Liebman, and Lawrence Katz, "Experimental Analysis of Neighborhood Effects on Youth" (Aug 2005) NBER w11577, 75pp, forthcoming in *Econometrica.*
7. Jens Ludwig and Jacob Vigdor, "Segregation and the Black-White Test Score Gap," prepared for Russell Sage conference on "Stalled Progress" (Nov 16-17, 2006), 35pp.

Also recommended

8. David Harding, "Neighborhood Violence and the Age Structure of Peer Networks: Socialization of Adolescent Boys in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods" Population Studies Center, University of Michigan (Dec. 2005), 27pp.
9. David Card and Jesse Rothstein, "Racial Segregation and the Black-White Test Score Gap," NBER w12078 (March 2006), 57pp.

The remainder of the reading list is tentative. The final reading list will be available at www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/5491.

March 21: Theoretical approaches to the comparative study of welfare states (Iversen)

1. Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe* (Oxford University Press 2004), Ch. 2.
2. Allan H. Meltzer and Scott. F. Richard, "A Rational Theory of the Size of Government," *Journal of Political Economy* 89 (1981), 914-17.
3. Gösta Esping-Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, chs. 1-3.
4. Moene, Karl Ove and Michael Wallerstein, "Inequality, Social Insurance and Redistribution." *American Political Science Review* 95 (4) (2001), 859-874.
5. 5, Margarita Estevez-Abe, Torben Iversen and David Soskice, "Social Protection and the Formation of Skills: A Reinterpretation of the Welfare State." In Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, *Varieties of Capitalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Also recommended:

6. R. Boadway and M. Keen, "Redistribution", Parts 1-3 of Ch. 12 in A. Atkinson and F. Bourguignon (eds.), *Handbook of Income Distribution* Vol. 1.

March 28: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

April 4: Political institutions and redistribution (Iversen)

1. Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe* (Oxford University Press 2004), Ch. 4.
2. Arend Lijphart, "Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma," *American Political Science Review*, 91 (1997), pp. 1-14.
3. Torsten Persson and Guido Tabellini, *The Economic Effects of Constitutions*. MIT Press, 2003, Chs. 2, ch. 6 sections 6.1-6.3; ch 8 sections 8.1-8.4, 8.6.
4. Evelyn Huber, Charles Ragin, and John D. Stephens, "Social Democracy, Christian Democracy, Constitutional Structure, and the Welfare State." *American Journal of Sociology* 99 (3), 711-749 (1993).
5. Vicki Birchfield and Markus Crepaz, "The Impact of Constitutional Structure and Collective and Competitive Veto Points in Income Inequality in Industrialized Democracies," *European Journal of Political Research*, 34 (1998), pp. 175-200.
6. Torben Iversen and David Soskice, "Electoral Systems and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More than Others," *American Political Science Review* 100 (2) (2006).

Also recommended:

7. Milesi-Ferretti, G. M. Perotti, and M. Rostagno. "Electoral systems and the composition of public spending". *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 2002.
8. Paul Pierson, "Fragmented Welfare States: Federal Institutions and the Development of Social Policy." *Governance* 8 (1995), 449-78.

April 11: Explaining preferences for social policy

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1. Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe* (Oxford University Press 2004), Ch. 4.
2. David Austen-Smith and Michael Wallerstein, "Redistribution in a Divided Society."
3. Torben Iversen and David Soskice, "An Asset Theory of Social Policy Preferences." *American Political Science Review* 95 (December 2001), 875-893.
4. Stefan Svallfors, "Worlds of Welfare and Attitudes to Redistribution: A Comparison of Eight Western Nations." *European Sociological Review* 13: (3), 283-304 (1997).
5. Kenneth Scheve and David Stasavage, "Religion and Preferences for Social Insurance" *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 1(3) (2006).

Also recommended:

6. Cathie Jo Martin, "Nature or Nurture - Sources of Firm Preferences for National Health Reform," *American Political Science Review* 89 (4), 898-913 (1995).
7. Peter Swenson, Capitalists Against Markets: The Making of Labor Markets and Welfare States in the United States and Sweden (Oxford Press, 2002), ch 1.

April 18: Comparative Gender Inequality and the Family

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1. *Reread* Gary Becker. *Treatise on the Family* (Harvard University Press 1993), ch. 2.
2. Sven Lundberg and R. A. Pollak, "Bargaining and Distribution in Marriage". *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 10 (4) (1996), 139-58
3. Gösta Esping-Andersen. *Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies*, chs 3-5.
4. Lott JR, Kenny LW, "Did women's suffrage change the size and scope of government?" *Journal of Political Economy* 107 (6), 1163-1198 (1999).
5. Torben Iversen and Frances Rosenbluth, "The Political Economy of Gender: Explaining the Cross-national Variation in the Gender Division of Labor and the Gender Voting Gap." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2006.
6. Evelyn Huber and John D. Stephens, "Partisan Governance, Women's Employment, and the Social Democratic Service State" *American Sociological Review*, 65(3), 323-42 (2000)

Also recommended:

7. June O'Neill, "The Gender Gap in Wages, circa 2000." *American Economic Review* (May 2003) 93:309-14.

April 25: Forces of change and welfare state reform

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1. Paul Pierson, "The New Politics of the Welfare State." *World Politics* 48 (1996), 143-79.
2. Richard Clayton and Jonas Pontusson, "Welfare-state Retrenchment Revisited - Entitlement Cuts, Public Sector Restructuring, and Inegalitarian trends in Advanced Capitalist Societies." *World Politic*s 51 (1), 67- (1998).
3. Dani Rodrik, *Has Globalization Gone Too Far?* (Washington DC: Institute for International Economics, 1997), chs. 3-4.
4. Torben Iversen and Thomas Cusack. "The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?" *World Politics* 52 (April 2000), 313-49.
5. Martin Rhodes, "The Political Economy of Social Pacts: 'Competitive Corporatism and European Welfare Reform" in Paul Pierson, ed., T*he New Politics of the Welfare State*. New York: Oxford University Press: 165-94.

Also recommended:

6. Introduction and conclusion of Paul Pierson (ed), *The New Politics of the Welfare State*. Oxford University Press, 2001.

May 5: Inequality, information, and political polarization

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1. Alesina and Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty*, ch. 7.
2. Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole, and Howard Rosenthal, *Polarized America* MIT Press 2006, Chapters 1 and 3.
3. Jonas Pontusson, "The Politics of Inequality and Partisan Polarization in OECD Countries."
4. John D. Huber and Piero Stanig, "Voting polarization on redistribution across democracies"
5. Martin Gilens, "Inequality and Democratic Responsiveness: Who Gets What They Want from Government?"
6. Larry Bartels, "Homer Gets a Tax Cut: Inequality and Public Policy in the American Mind," Princeton 2004

Those seeking June degrees must submit their paper by May 17. Others should see page 2 of the syllabus.