Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Inequality, Fairness and Policy Goals
Course Code	EBC4276
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2026	11-12-2026	X		X		

Level	Intermediate/Advanced
Coordinator	Kristof Bosmans, Michail Moatsos For more information:k.bosmans@maastrichtuniversity.nl; michail.moatsos@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	1. Understand and be able to apply the theory of inequality, welfare and poverty measurement, both in the simple setting of income and wealth, and in complex settings of multidimensional inequality and equality of opportunity 2. Understand key empirical results on spatial and temporal comparisons of inequality, welfare and poverty in both the simple and complex settings 3. Understand the normative underpinnings of the above theories and of policy goals regarding distribution and redistribution 4. Understand key empirical results on people's normative preferences regarding distribution and redistribution 5. Be able to communicate and critically reflect on the above 6. Be able to work in diverse groups, both as an individual and as a team
Description	The general idea of this course is to generate a basic understanding of inequality and resulting policy goals. In the first part, the course focuses on understanding the definition and measurement of different concepts of income and wealth inequality. It will discuss the basic properties of inequality measures, and how different measures can yield different conclusions. It studies historical and contemporaneous challenges that are associated with income and wealth inequality. In the second part of the course, we will reflect on evaluating and judging inequality using alternative normative concepts such as well-being and happiness and discuss potential policy goals with respect to inequality.
Literature	To be announced.
Prerequisites	Knowledge and understanding of microeconomics, macroeconomics and empirical research methods (all at the intermediate level).
Keywords	
Transitional Regulations	
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / Papers / Groupwork / Research / Skills
Assessment methods	Attendance / Participation / Written Exam / Oral Exam / Assignment / Presentation / Take home exam
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Economics - Inequality and Social Inclusion [Discontinued]	Core Courses
Master Economics - Sustainable and Resilient Economies [Discontinued]	Elective Courses
Master Economics - Technology, Markets, and Societal Change [Discontinued]	Elective Courses
Master Economics	Compulsory Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses