

MASTER PROGRAM “ETHICS - ECONOMICS, LAW AND POLITICS” (EELP)

Winter Term 2020/21

Instructor:

Prof. Dr. Alessandro Pinzani

Course title:

ON POVERTY: NORMATIVE ARGUMENTS

Course code:

030083

Course aims:

The course aims at discussing poverty from a philosophical point of view. We shall first discuss briefly the difficulty of defining the very concept and its ambiguity. In the second part of the seminar we shall consider different philosophical approaches to the issue of poverty: sufficientarianism, the human rights approach, the capability approach etc. Finally, we shall briefly touch on the topic of poverty and gender issues. Participants will have the chance to discuss with their colleagues a first version of their final paper in a seminar to be held in the last two weeks of the course.

Schedule:

Classes will be held on **Tuesday** from 14:30 to 16:00

Date	Topics assignment and readings
	(RQR = Required readings; RCR = Recommended readings; FR = Further readings)
October 27	Introduction to the seminar and distribution of the presentations
November 3	<i>Helping the Distant Poor</i> (RQR: Singer 1; Miller) (RCR: Singer 2)
November 10	<i>Sufficientism and EPL</i> (RQR: Axelsen & Nielsen; Edward)
November 17	<i>Poverty and Humiliation</i> (RQR: Pinzani & Piroli) (RCR: Margalit)
November 24	<i>Poverty and Agency</i> (RQR: Ci)
December 01	<i>Poverty and Rights</i> (RQR: Nickel) (RCR: Hinsch & Stepanians; Mieth)
December 08	<i>Poverty and Human Rights</i> (RQR: Pogge 1) (RCR: Townsend; Kanbur & Sumner)
December 15	<i>A Kantian Perspective</i> (RQR: O’Neill)
December 22	<i>The Capability Approach I</i> (RQR: Crocker) (RCR: Sen; Alkire)
January 12	<i>The Capability Approach II</i> (RQR: Pogge 2; Anderson)
January 19	<i>The “Feminization of Poverty”</i> (RQR: Fraser) (RCR: Pearce; Chant)
January 26	<i>Adaptive Preferences and Women’s Options</i> (RQR: Nussbaum) (RCR: Wisor et al.)
February 02	Seminar on the final papers
February 09	Final debate

Required Readings:

- Anderson, Elizabeth (2010): “Justifying the Capabilities Approach to Justice.” In: *Measuring Justice. Primary Goods and Capabilities*, edited by Harry Brighouse and Ingrid Robeyns. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 81-100.
- Axelsen, David V.; Nielsen, Lasse (2015): “Sufficiency as Freedom from Duress”. *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, vol. 24, n° 5, pp. 406-426.
- Ci, Jiwei (2012): “Agency and Other Stakes of Poverty”. *Journal of Political Philosophy*, vol. 21, n° 2, pp. 121–50
- Crocker, David A. (1995): “Functioning and Capability. The Foundations of Sen’s and Nussbaum’s Development Ethic, Part 2.” In: *Women, Culture, and Development. A Study of Human Capabilities*, edited by Martha C. Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 153-198.
- Edward, Peter (2006): “The Ethical Poverty Line: A Moral Quantification of Absolute Poverty”. *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 27, n° 2, pp. 377-393.
- Fraser, Nancy (1987): Women, Welfare and the Politics on Need Interpretation. *Thesis Eleven*, 17, 88-106.

- Hinsch, Wilfried; Stepanians, Markus (2005): "Severe Poverty as a Human Rights Violation – Weak and Strong." In: *Real World Justice. Grounds, Principles, Human Rights, and Social Institutions*, edited by Andreas Follesdal and Thomas Pogge. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 295-315.
- Mieth, Corinna (2014): The Double Foundation of Human Rights in Human Nature. In: *Human Rights and Human Nature*. Ed. by Marion Albers, Thomas Hoffmann and Jörn Reinhardt. Dordrecht: Springer, 2014, 11-22.
- Miller, David (2004): National responsibility and international justice. In: *The Ethics of Assistance. Morality and the Distant Needy*. Ed. by Deen K. Chatterjee. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 123-143.
- Nickel, James W. (2005): "Poverty and Rights". *The Philosophical Quarterly*. Vol. 55, No. 220, 385-402.
- Nussbaum, Martha C. (2000): *Women and Human Development. The Capabilities Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Chapter 2 "Adaptive Preferences and Women's Options", pp. 111-166).
- O'Neill, Onora (1986): *Faces of Hunger. An Essay on Poverty, Justice, and Development*. London: Allen & Unwin (chapter 7 "Obligation and Need", pp. 121-143 and chapter 8 "Obligations to the Poor", pp. 144-164).
- Pinzani, Alessandro; Piroli, Diana (2020): "Poverty, Shaming, Humiliation. Do Social Policies Violate Human Dignity?" In: *In Search for a Social Minimum: Human Dignity, Poverty and Human Rights*, edited by Gottfried Schweiger. Cham: Springer (upcoming).
- Pogge, Thomas (2007): "Severe Poverty as a Human Rights Violation". In: *Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right. Who Owes What to The Very Poor?*, edited by Thomas Pogge. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 11-53 (Pogge 1).
- Pogge, Thomas (2010): "A critique of the capability approach." In: *Measuring Justice. Primary Goods and Capabilities*, edited by Harry Brighouse and Ingrid Robeyns. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 17-60.
- Singer, Peter (1972): "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, Vol. 1, No. 3, 229-243 (Singer 1)

Recommended readings:

- Alkire, Sabina (2005): "Why the Capability Approach?". *Journal of Human Development*, vol. 6, n°1, pp. 115-135.
- Chant, Sylvia (2006): "Re-thinking the 'Feminization of Poverty' in Relation to Aggregate Gender Indices." *Journal of Human Development*, vol. 7, n° 2, pp. 201-220.
- Kanbur, Ravi; Sumner, Andy (2012): "Poor Countries or Poor People? Development Assistance and the New Geography of Global Poverty." *Journal of International Development*, vol. 24, pp. 686–695.
- Margalit, Avishai (1996): *The Decent Society*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press (Chapter 14 "The Welfare Society", pp. 222-246)
- Pearce, Diana (1978): "The Feminization of Poverty". *The Urban & Social Change Review*. Special Issue on Women and World. Vol. 11, n° 1/2, pp. 28-36.
- Sen, Amartya (2000): *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books (Chapter 4: "Poverty as Capability Deprivation", pp. 87-110).
- Singer, Peter (2004): Outsiders: our obligations to those beyond our borders. In: *The Ethics of Assistance. Morality and the Distant Needy*. Ed. by Deen K. Chatterjee. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 11-32. (Singer 2)
- Townsend, Peter (2002): "Poverty, social exclusion and social polarisation: the need to construct an international welfare state". In: Townsend, P.; Gordon, D. (eds.). *World Poverty. New Policies to Defeat an Old Enemy*. Bristol: The Policy Press, pp. 3-24.
- Wisor, Scott; Bessell, Sharon; Castillo, Fatima; Crawford, Joanne; Donaghue, Kieran; Hunt, Janet; Jaggard, Alison; Liu, Amy; Pogge Thomas (2015): *The Individual Deprivation Measure. A Gender-Sensitive Approach to Poverty Measurement*. Melbourne: IWDA (pp. 1-9 and 27-39).

Further readings:

- Alcock, Peter (2006): *Understanding Poverty*. 3rd edition. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Alkire, Sabina (2002): *Valuing Freedoms. Sen's Capability Approach and Poverty Reduction*. Oxford: OUP
- Atkinson, Anthony B. (1987): "On the Measurement of Poverty". *Econometrica*, vol. 55, n° 4, pp. 749-764.
- Banerjee, Abhijit V.; Duflo, Esther (2011): *Poor Economics. A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Basu, Kaushik; Kanbur, Ravi (eds.) (2009): *Arguments for a Better World. Essays in Honor of Amartya Sen. Vol. I: Ethics, Welfare, and Measurement*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

- Brock, Gillian (ed.) (1998): *Necessary Goods. Our Responsibilities to Meet Others' Needs*. Lahnam (MD): Rowman & Littlefield.
- Brown, Larry (ed.) (1993): *The Link Between Nutrition and Cognitive Development in Children*. Medford (MA): Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, School of Nutrition, Tufts University.
- Chen, Shaohua; Ravallion, Martin (2007): *Absolute Poverty Measures for the Developing World*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4211.
- Comim, Flavio; Qizibash, Mozzafar; Alkire, Sabina (eds.) (2008): *The Capability Approach. Concepts, Measures and Applications*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Coser, Lewis A. (1965): "The Sociology of Poverty. To the Memory of Georg Simmel". *Journal of Social Policy*. Vol. 17, n° 3, pp. 140-148
- Dean, Hartley (2010): *Understanding Human Needs. Social issues, policy and practice*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Deneulin, Séverine; Shahani, Lila (eds.) (2009): *An Introduction to the Human Development and Capability Approach. Freedom and Agency*. London: Earthscan.
- Doyal, Len; Gough, Ian (1991): *A Theory of Human Need*. London: Macmillan.
- Easterly, William (2001): *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge (MA): MIT Press.
- Ehrenreich, Barbara (2001): *Nickel and Dime. On (Not) Getting By in America*. New York: Metropolitan.
- Fleurbaey, Marc (2007): "Poverty as a Form of Oppression." In: *Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right. Who Owes What to The Very Poor?*, edited by Thomas Pogge. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 133-154.
- Flik, Robert J.; van Praag, Bernard M. S. (1991): "Subjective Poverty Lines Definitions". *De Economist*, vol. 139, n° 3, 311-330.
- Geremek, Bronislaw (1994): *Poverty: A History*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Gordon, David (2002): "The International Measurement of Poverty and Anti-Poverty Policies". In: Townsend, P.; Gordon, D. (eds.). *World Poverty. New Policies to Defeat an Old Enemy*. Bristol: The Policy Press, pp. 53-80.
- Hagenaars, Aldi J. M.; van Praag, Bernard M. S. (1985): "A Synthesis of Poverty Line Definitions". *Review of Income and Wealth*, vol. 31, n° 2, 139-154.
- Hagenaars, Aldi J. M. (1986): *The Perception of Poverty*. Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing Company.
- Hamilton, Lawrence (2003): *The Political Philosophy of Needs*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Himmelfarb, Gertrud (1984): *The Idea of Poverty. England in the Early Industrial Age*. New York: Knopf.
- Khader, Serene J. (2011): *Adaptative Preferences and Women's Empowerment*. Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Kreide, Regine (2007): "Neglected Injustice: Poverty as a Violation of Social Autonomy." In: *Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right. Who Owes What to The Very Poor?*, edited by Thomas Pogge. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 155-181.
- Leão Rego, Walquiria; Pinzani, Alessandro (2016): Money, Autonomy, Citizenship. Effects of the Programa Bolsa Família on Its Participants. In: *Philosophy and Public Issues*, 6/3, 115-159
- Leão Rego, Walquiria; Pinzani, Alessandro (2018): *Money, Autonomy and Citizenship. The Experience of the Brazilian Bolsa Família*. Cham: Springer
- Levine, David P.; Rizvi, S. Abu Thurab (2005): *Poverty, Work, and Freedom. Political Economy and the Moral Order*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Lipton, Michael (1988): *The Poor and the Poorest: Some Interim Findings*. Washington: World Bank.
- Lora, Eduardo (coord.) (2008): *Beyond Facts. Understanding Quality of Life*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard UP.
- Narayan, Deepa; Patel, Raj, Schafft, Kai; Rademacher, Anne, Koch-Schulte, Sarah (eds.) (2000): *Voices of the Poor: Can Anyone Hear Us?* New York: Oxford UP.
- Narayan, Deepa; Chambers, Robert; Shah, Meera (eds.) (2001): *Voices of the Poor: Crying Out for Changes*. New York: Oxford UP.
- Narayan, Deepa; Patesh, Patti (eds.) (2002): *Voices of the Poor: From Many Lands*. New York: Oxford UP.
- Noble, Kimberly G. et alii, (2015): "Family income, parental education and brain structure in children and adolescents". *Nature Neuroscience*, vol. 18, 773-778 (doi:10.1038/nn.3983)
- Nussbaum, Martha; Sen, Amartya (eds.) (1993): *The Quality of Life*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Nussbaum, Martha; Glover, Jonathan (eds.) (1995): *Women, Culture, and Development. A Study on Human Capabilities*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Nussbaum, Martha (2000): *Women and Human Development. The Capabilities Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Nussbaum, Martha (2011): *Creating Capabilities. The Human Development Approach*. Cambridge (MA): Belknap.

- Piven, Frances Fox; Cloward, Richard A. (1993): *Regulating the Poor. The Functions of Public Welfare*. Updated edition. New York: Vintage.
- Pogge, Thomas (2010): *Politics as Usual. What Lies Behind the Pro-Poor Rhetoric*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Reader, Soran (ed.) (2005): *The Philosophy of Needs*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Reddy, Sanjay; Pogge, Thomas (2005): *How Not to Count the Poor.*: www.columbia.edu/~sr793/count.pdf (acessado em 12 de junho de 2015).
- Sen, Amartya (1983): "Poor, Relatively Speaking". *Oxford Economic Papers*. New Series. Vol. 35, nº 2, pp. 153-169.
- Sen, Amartya (1985): "A Sociological Approach to the Measurement of Poverty: A Reply to Professor Peter Townsend". *Oxford Economic Papers*. New Series. Vol. 37, nº 4, pp. 669-676.
- Sen, Amartya (1987): *Commodities and Capabilities*. New Delhi: Oxford UP.
- Sen, Amartya (1992): *Inequality Reexamined*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard UP.
- Sen, Amartya (1999): *Development as Freedom*. New York: Alfred Knopf.
- Sen, Amartya (2009): *The Idea of Justice*. London: Allen Lane.
- Simmel, Georg, (1965) [1903]: "The Poor". *Social Problems*, Vol. 13, Nº. 2, pp. 118-140
- Stedman Jones, Gareth (2004): *An End to Poverty? A Historical Debate*. New York: Columbia UP.
- Streeten, Paul P. (1995): *Thinking About Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Thomson, Garrett (1987): *Needs*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Tirado, Linda (2015): *Hand to Mouth. Living in Bootstrap America*. New York: Berkley
- Townsend, Peter (1970): *The Concept of Poverty*. London: Heinemann.
- Townsend, Peter (1979): *Poverty in the United Kingdom*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
- Wilkinson, Richard; Pickett, Kate (2009): *The Spirit Level. Why Equality is Better for Anyone*. London: Allen Lane.

Grading procedures:

Ungraded achievements

8 summaries of the required readings (min. 1 page, max. 2 pages each) = 4 cp

Graded achievements

1 Term paper (15 to 20 pages) = 6 cp

3 Essays (6 pages or more) = 6 cp

2 Essays (9 pages or more) = 6 cp



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