

Social Interactions and Inequality

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Course information

Course Website: <http://www.nes.ru/ru/programs/econ/acad-progr/>

Instructor's Office Hours: by appointment

Class Time: TBA

Room Number: TBA

TAs: TBA

Course description

This course will survey the economics of social interactions with applications to the study of inequality. The study of social interactions by economists constitutes an effort to combine sociological ideas about behavior with the choice based logic of economics. These types of models study intragroup and intergroup behavior as well as behaviors in networks. The social interactions approach provides insights into a range of phenomena ranging from group level inequality to segregation to patterns of smoking and voting. The course will cover theoretical and econometric dimensions of social interactions as well as aspects of the empirical literature.

Course requirements, grading, and attendance policies

Students are assumed to have knowledge of microeconomics, econometrics at an advanced undergraduate level. Lectures will involve calculus, probability theory, and some elements of real analysis. Attendance is mandatory.

Course grades will be based on class assignments.

Course contents

Topic 1: Complementarity

Topic 2: Mathematics of Interactions and Social Structure

Topic 3: Choice and Equilibrium with Social interactions

Topic 4: Identification of Social Interactions

Topic 5: Neighborhood Effects and Inequality

Description of course methodology

The course will involve of the art economic theory and econometric methods.

Sample tasks for course evaluation

Critical evaluation of research articles.

Course materials

All course materials will be based on published articles or working papers in various scholarly literatures.

Academic integrity policy

Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics are not tolerated and NES standards will be enforced.