COURSE DETAIL

BASIC INCOME AND INEQUALITY
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Political Science Economics
UCEAP Course Number 117
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title BASIC INCOME AND INEQUALITY
UCEAP Transcript Title INCOME & INEQUALITY
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

In the spring of 2021 the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) began paying 122 people 1200€ a month, tax free, no strings attached, for three years. The study, which will compare their fortunes to those of a much larger group who also put their hand up to receive the money but were not among the lucky few, aims to contribute empirical evidence to the debate over the merits of a basic income. We will compare the idea of a basic income to other types of government benefits in cash and in kind, and engage with arguments for and against these different benefit types. We will analyze in detail the claim that a basic income would eliminate relative poverty and reduce income inequality by studying income inequality in Germany today. We will look at any data published by the German experiment, and compare its design to that of a two-year trial carried out in Finland in 2017–18. In this way the course will serve as an introduction to research methods in social policy. By the end of the semester you will have gained an overview of tax–transfer systems and of their role in reducing income inequality, and you will be in a position to engage in an informed way in debate over the promise of a basic income.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
16922

Host Institution Course Title
BASIC INCOME AND INEQUALITY

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/785961?query=Nethery&sm=682860

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Deutsche Philologie

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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