COURSE DETAIL

EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY AND EDUCATION POLICY
Country France
Host Institution Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)
Program(s) Sciences Po Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Education
UCEAP Course Number 163
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY AND EDUCATION POLICY
UCEAP Transcript Title EDUC INEQUALTY&PLCY
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

Receiving an adequate level of education can be seen as a fundamental social right. Yet, the extent and ways in which education is provided vary substantially across countries, social groups, and over-time. This course is designed to introduce students to the study of educational inequality and education policy. The course begins by reviewing the main goals, achievements, and outstanding challenges in education policy in the early 21st century. Specifically, it takes a historical perspective to review the significant progress made with respect to providing education to large parts of the world's population and with respect to reducing gender inequality in educational attainment. The course then turns to one key policy challenge of the early 21st century—reducing the inequalities in educational attainment between individuals from different socio-economic backgrounds. It discusses normative arguments for why we may care to understand and address inequality of educational opportunity. Moreover, the course examines the social mechanisms that account for educational inequalities between individuals from different social backgrounds and discusses whether and how policies and social interventions can reduce these educational inequalities. The structure of the course follows the early life-course and educational trajectory of individuals to critically examine educational policies on early childhood education, the notion of "social investment", ability tracking at the secondary level, the function of school autonomy, the effectiveness of education policy to equalize access to elite institutions, the role of large crises — such as the COVID-19 pandemic — in exacerbating existing inequalities, and how education policy can protect children's learning in the face of such crises. The course fosters students' ability to think like a social scientist and to critically approach and examine major issues of educational inequality. It develops the conceptual tools and substantive knowledge to address current questions on educational inequality.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number

DSOC 25A35

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EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY AND EDUCATION POLICY

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202420/269302

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
Sociology

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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