Recent work in comparative political economy has debated the role of economic inequality in settings as diverse as public spending, democratisation, and political polarization. This class teaches students the classic models of inequality and redistribution and provides a series of applications of these models. The first session introduces these formal models to students, building up the basic framework for applied analysis. The remaining four sessions each take on a well-known recent application: risk, insurance, and wealth; the impact of non-economic and identity motivations; the demand for skills and education; and regime change. By the end of the class students should be familiar with important recent debates in political economy and understand the strengths and weaknesses of standard models of inequality and redistribution. In several of the classes I will discuss the models in my own published work. The reason for doing this is (a) I know this material best! and (b) I will discuss the challenges and choices facing researchers as they think about how to model and test their ideas.

Class One: Formal Models and Redistribution

- Dennis Mueller, *Public Choice III*, Chapter 3
- Adam Przeworski *States and Markets* Chapters 10 and 11

Class Two: Risk, Insurance and Ownership

Class Three: Altruism and Group Identity


Class Four: Skills and Education

- Torben Iversen and David Soskice, ‘An Asset Theory of Redistribution’, American Political Science Review

Class Five: Regime Change

- Carles Boix, Inequality and Democracy, 2003 Chapter 2
- Ben Ansell and David Samuels, Inequality and Democratization: An Elite Competition Approach. 2014. Chapter 4 (will provide copies).