



**Disciplina:** Studies on Inequalities:  
an Introduction

**Tipo:** Obrigatória Livre (optativa)

**Professor:** Tâmis Parron

**Período:** 2021/2 (remoto)

**Turno:** Noturno

**Horário:** 3<sup>a</sup> e 5<sup>a</sup> (18h-20h)

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## Syllabus

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**Course Description:** This course introduces the emerging field of studies on inequalities from a world-historical and environmental perspective. The main goal is to provide students with critical categories and historical methodologies to navigate through the works by Thomas Piketty, Branko Milanović, Jeffrey Williamson, and Acemoglu and Robinson. Topics covered include Kuznets waves, the “Great Egalitarian Leveling”, labor productivity, modernization theory, world ecology, and theoretical history.

### Grading and course requirements:

1. Abstract of assigned readings: 3.0 points
2. Final exam: 7.0 pontos.

### Course Units:

#### I. The field of studies on inequalities

- 1.1 Time and space in economic reasoning: discussing Acemoglu and Robinson’s *Why Nations Fail*.
- 1.2 Inequality and the past: chronology vs. temporality in Williamson’s egalitarian leveling argument
- 1.3 Thomas Piketty and his political theory of inequality
- 1.4. Branko Milanović: Kuznets waves and economic growth.

#### II. Inequalities from a world-ecological perspective

- 2.1 Modernization theory and studies on inequality
- 2.2 Labor productivity: the world-ecological foundations of the “Trentes Glorieuses”
- 2.2 Who is afraid of world-ecological reasoning?

### Required bibliography

- ACEMOGLU, Daron; ROBINSON, James A. *Why nations fail: the origins of power, prosperity and poverty*. London: Profile, 2012
- BUNKER, Stephen; Paul Ciccaltell. *Globalization and the Race for Resources*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2005.
- GORDON, Robert. *The Rise and Fall of American Growth: The U. S. Standard of Living Since the Civil War*. Princeton: PUP, 2016.
- MOORE, Jason. *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*. London: Verso, 2015.
- PIKETTY, Thomas. *Le capital au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle*. Paris: Seuil, 2013.
- PIKETTY, Thomas. *Capital et Idéologie*. Paris: Seuil, 2019.
- MILANOVIĆ, Branko. *Capitalism, alone: the future of the system that rules the world*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2019.

WILLIAMSON, Jeffrey. "Latin American Inequality: Colonial Origins, Commodity Booms or a Missed Twentieth-Century Leveling?" *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 2015, Vol. 16, No. 3, 324–341.