Course overview: Political equality is a normative ideal, and is thought to have positive consequences on citizens’ socio-economic outcomes such as income, health and education. As a result, many societies have sought to correct political inequality through various remedies, including electoral quotas. In this course, we will review what political inequality is, and examine how scholars have measured it, and studied its causes, effects and remedies. The course will focus on inequalities in political participation and representation.

Assignments and grading: The final class grade will be based on:

• Class attendance and participation, for 15% of the class grade. Questions and discussion are encouraged. Exams will draw heavily on materials covered in lecture.

• A presentation of a “political inequality audit” of a randomly assigned country, for 15% of the grade. Audits will be conducted by groups of four students, and must reflect the concerted effort of all group members. Presentations should, in 20 minutes, provide an overview of glaring political inequalities in the assigned country, and an assessment of the causes and effects, and remedies for, one particularly acute inequality.

• An in-class midterm, for 35 % of the class grade.

• A final exam, for 35% of the class grade.

Disabilities: Students needing special accommodations to enable full participation in this course should contact me during the first week of class. All information will remain confidential. You may, in addition to contacting me, contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center (www.mcburney.wisc.edu) at 1305 Linden Drive and 608.263.2741 regarding questions about campus policies and services.

Class plan (subject to modification):

Class 1 (1/23): Introductions, course logistics

Class 2 (1/25): What is political inequality?, 1


Class 3 (1/30): What is political inequality?, 2

Class 4 (2/01): Measures of political inequality

The Causes of Political Inequality

Class 5 (2/06): Regime type

Class 6 (2/08): Movie—Suffragettes
• Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. 1848. "Declaration of Sentiments."

Class 7 (2/13): Disenfranchisement

Class 8 (2/15): The electoral system

Class 9 (2/20): Malapportionment

Class 10 (2/22): Differential participation

Class 11 (2/27): Prejudice
• Also watch www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/sheryl_sandberg_why_we_have_too_few_women_leaders.html

Class 12 (2/29): Economic inequality

Class 13 (3/05): Review

Class 14 (3/07): Midterm

The Effects of Political Inequality

Class 15 (3/12): Of regime type

Class 16 (3/14): Of gender inequality

Class 17 (3/19): Case study—Taxation

Class 18 (3/21): Case study—The welfare state

Class 19 (3/26): Case study—The financial crisis

Class 20 (3/28): Political inequality audits, 1

Class 21 (4/09): Political inequality audits, 2

Class 22 (4/11): Political inequality audits, 3

Remedies for Political Inequality

Class 23 (4/16): War
  http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jay-mandle/war-does-not-promote-
demo_b_738759.html.

Class 24 (4/18): Foreign aid

Class 25 (4/23): Non-partisan redistricting
• Ansolabehere, Stephen, and James M. Snyder. 2008. The End of Inequality. New York:  
  W. W. Norton.  Chapter 11.

Class 26 (4/25): Movie—Gerrymandering
• Play the game at http://www.redistrictinggame.org/index.php?pg=game

Class 27 (4/30): Majority-minority redistricting
• Canon, David. 1999. Race, Redistricting, and Representation: The Unintended  
  Consequences of Black Majority Districts. New York: Cambridge University Press.  
  Chapter 1.

Class 28 (5/02): Quotas
• Bhavnani, Rikhil R. 2009. "Do Electoral Quotas Work After They Are Withdrawn?  
  Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India." The American Political Science Review 103  

Class 29 (5/07): Last class

Class 30 (5/09): Review

Final, 5/19, 7:45-9:45 am