Growing inequality of income and wealth has increasingly come to the forefront of policy discussions in recent years. This course will examine the nature and distribution of income and wealth in the U.S. and internationally – looking at the historical record and recent trends. We will then examine the causes and consequences of inequality and how inequality may be related to trends in societal well-being, the quality of life and happiness. The course will also examine the changing relationship between income inequality and education, race, ethnicity and gender.

Course work will include readings, class discussion, an exam, a paper and a class presentation.