**Overview:** This course will examine social inequality and its consequences, as well as research on interventions designed to ameliorate its negative outcomes, all from the perspective of neuroscience. We will begin with definitions of stress and will review the remarkably similar effects of stress in plants, non-human animals and humans. We will read and discuss sets of research articles each week. Topics include the basic data on the physiological, anatomical and epigenetic effects of stress and social inequality, consequences across the lifespan from early childhood to adulthood, the neuroscience of stress and social stress, cognitive outcomes of inequality, and the impact of early and later interventions. There will be one midterm and a final. 

**Course readings:** Weekly readings will be primary research and review papers that will be posted on Blackboard one week prior to in-class discussions. There is no textbook for this course.

Optional, but highly recommended, supplemental readings:

*The cost of inequality*, by J Stiglitz

**Weekly Topics**

**Week 1:** Introductions, overview of syllabus and expectations, formation of topic groups
**Week 2:**  Inequality, stress and socioeconomic status: definitions and parallels of consequences of stress in plants, nonhuman animals and humans

**Week 3:**  Stress and inequality in nonhuman animals

**Week 4:**  Stress, anxiety, neural outcomes in humans

  *Graduate Students: draft of outreach project due*

**Week 5:**  Early life stress

**Week 6**  **Midterm**

**Week 7:**  Parental nurturance

**Week 8:**  Interventions

**Week 9:**  Genes and gene-environment/intervention interactions

**Week 10:**  Neuroscience of sociality, altruism, 'fairness', perceived injustice

Outreach project presentations