

# ROBERT PAUL HARTLEY

## *Teaching Interests*

### Core Courses:

- ▶ **Microeconomics** [Introductory, Intermediate, Graduate]  
Principle concepts and economic approach to scarcity, incentives, price, and resource allocation. Models of household behavior, preferences, utility maximization, and welfare analysis. Public goods, externalities, and the role of government. Models of firm behavior, production inputs/costs, profit maximization, competition, and market structure. Uncertainty, risk, information, and expectations.  
Texts: *Microeconomics*, Acemoglu, Laibson, and List (2015);  
*Microeconomics and Behavior*, Frank (2014); and,  
*Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, Nicholson and Snyder (2012).
- ▶ **Labor Economics** [Undergraduate, Graduate]  
Unique features of labor markets, trends in labor market outcomes, history of labor theory. Labor supply, income and substitution effects, elasticity, estimation methodology, specifying utility functions, responses to taxes and transfers, measurement and life-cycle issues. Labor force participation and demographic shifts over time. Short- and long-run labor demand, relationship to other inputs to production, skill-biased technological change, and the future of low-skill labor. Wage determination, human capital investment, inequality and economic mobility, marketplace discrimination, and collective bargaining.  
Texts: *Labor Economics*, Borjas (2015); and,  
*The Economics of Labor Markets*, Kaufman and Hotchkiss (2005).
- ▶ **Public Economics** [Undergraduate, Graduate]  
Tragedy of the commons, public goods, externalities, government intervention and political economy. Social welfare and social insurance, redistribution, and persistence in poverty and inequality. Insurance markets, public provision, and mandates. Recent studies and empirical methodology in health, education, and personal finance, including behavioral economic implications. Tax structure, incidence, efficiency, and optimal taxation. Individual tax policy regarding income, wealth, savings, estates; and, corporate tax policy.  
Texts: *Public Finance and Public Policy*, Gruber (2016); and,  
*Policy and Choice: Public Finance through the Lens of Behavioral Economics*, Congdon, et al. (2011).
- ▶ **Statistics/Econometrics** [Introductory, Intermediate, Graduate]  
Modeling, sampling, and the scientific method; random variables, statistics, probability, distributions, and inference. Least squares estimation, hypothesis testing, assumptions/violations, and measurement error. Linear/nonlinear models, treatment effects, and heterogeneity. Advanced: Maximum likelihood, panel methods, limited dependent variable models, sample selection, instrumental variables, generalized method of moments, simultaneous equations models, nonparametric estimation, quantile regression, delta method, and bootstrap.  
Texts: *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, Wooldridge (2013);  
*Microeconometrics: Methods and Applications*, Cameron and Trivedi (2005); and,  
*Mostly Harmless Econometrics*, Angrist and Pischke (2008).
- ▶ **Economics of Policy Analysis** [Undergraduate, Graduate]  
Microeconomic models of household and firm response to government intervention, the role and scope of public policy, unintended consequences, and benefit-cost analysis. Positive versus normative economics, efficiency/equity trade-offs, social welfare functions, and general equilibrium effects. Tax and transfer programs, behavioral responses, and distributional effects. Uncertainty and risk, moral hazard, asymmetric information, and adverse selection. Public financing, marginal cost of funds, intergovernmental grants, tax incidence and salience. Urban policy and the rise and fall of neighborhoods. Technology, development, and inequality.  
Texts: *The Microeconomics of Public Policy Analysis*, Friedman (2002); and,  
*Public Program Evaluation: A Statistical Guide*, Langbein (2006).

## Elective Courses:

### ► Poverty, Inequality, and Socioeconomic Wellbeing

Conceptual definitions of poverty, inequality, mobility, hardship, deprivation, and capabilities. Relative, absolute, and anchored measures. Domestic and international trends in levels and changes; geographic variation. Comparison of market income, disposable income, and the role and relevance of public policy. Philosophical, political, and economic arguments regarding redistribution. Behavioral economics of poverty and inequality. Poverty traps and intergenerational persistence in socioeconomic status. Comparison of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Special focus on child poverty and discrimination.

Texts: *Changing Poverty, Changing Policies*, Cancian and Danziger (2009); *Poverty, Welfare, and Public Policy*, Besharov and Call (2010); and, *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and A Nation's Drive to End Welfare*, DeParle (2004).

### ► Economics of Taxes and Transfers in the United States

Focus on individual income taxes and transfers at the federal, state, and local level. Economic implications for low-income families' wellbeing, labor supply, human capital investment, and intergenerational mobility. Current research on program evaluation, treatment effects, methodological innovations, randomized control trials, and publicly available data sources used in observational studies. Intergovernmental transfers, public provision of goods and services, and the Tiebout model. Historical overview of total tax revenue and spending with comparisons to alternative models from other nations or theoretical proposals.

Texts: *Economics of Means-Tested Transfer Programs in the United States*, Moffitt, ed. (2016); and, *The Invisible Safety Net: Protecting the Nation's Poor Children and Families*, Currie (2008).

### ► Social Welfare Policy in American History

Historical antecedents and political economy factors for social welfare policy implementation and reform. Pre- and post-colonial American approaches to public charity. The Great Depression and the War on Poverty. Safety net evolution across various government agencies. Differential program take-up rates across demographics over time. Race and gender inequality, discrimination, and the role of institutions. Welfare reform experiments and program evaluation. Proposed and enacted welfare reforms in social context relative to prominent politicians, activists, and sociopolitical movements. Current debates and foreshadows of future policy reforms.

Texts: *Legacies of the War on Poverty*, Bailey and Danziger (2013); *Welfare As We Knew It: A Political History of the American Welfare State*, Noble (1997); and, *The Other America: Poverty in the United States*, Harrington (1962).

### ► Research Methods for Social Science and Policy

Ethics, transparency, and reproducibility. Identifying a research question, literature review, evaluating appropriate methods and data sources, and hypothesis formulation. Data visualization, presentation of results, and reporting standards. Theory and application, identification, power analysis, effect sizes and interpretation, sources of bias, and sensitivity analysis. Randomized control trials, observational studies; structural, reduced form, and design-based models; internal/external validity. Data management and coding protocols; using  $\LaTeX$ , Stata, R, Matlab/Octave, and software alternatives. Evaluating source material and scientific evidence.

Texts: *Manual of Best Practices in Transparent Social Science Research*, Christensen (2016); and, *OpenIntro Statistics*, Diez, Barr, and Çetinkaya-Rundel (2015).

### ► Human Capital Development, Opportunity, and Luck

Rawlsian veil of ignorance and the luck of birth; intergenerational persistence, wealth inequality, and historical institutions of discrimination. Prenatal development, birth outcomes, and the first five years of life. Cognitive and “noncognitive” skill formation, dynamic complementarity, and early childhood interventions. Human capital production function and input from families, neighborhoods, schools. Education finance, reform, equalization. Postsecondary training and returns to education. Earnings volatility, shocks, and life-cycle income profiles. Transitions into adulthood and measuring success.

Texts: *Whither Opportunity? Rising Inequality, Schools, and Children's Life Chances*, Duncan and Murnane (2011).