

Introductory Survey

Spring 2017

Student Name: _____

Instructions:

Read the questions below and put your initial thoughts for each question. There are no incorrect or correct answers, but it is important to take the questions seriously since we will share our thoughts and revisit them at the end of the semester. For all questions, put a short explanation of why you answered the way you did.

Questions

1. How would you define poverty in general terms? How might one measure your concept of poverty?

2. Why do you think poverty exists? Do you think we could eliminate poverty if we wanted to and do you think eliminating it would be worth the costs?

3. Should we care more about inequality in outcomes or inequality in opportunities?

4. Does it matter if economic progress leaves some people worse off, even if the majority of people are better off? Does it matter if the people who are worse off were initially rich, poor, or middle class?

5. Should we care more about poverty in our own country than we care about poverty in other countries?

6. Why do you think the United States has a GDP per capita of \$57k, while China has a GDP per capita of \$8k and Malawi has a GDP per capita of \$300?

7. Should we care about GDP per capita? Just because a country is poorer on average, does that mean that life is worse for the people who live there? What other things should we care about?

8. Should we try and prevent individuals or groups from becoming too wealthy? That is, should we care about inequality caused by having a small number of extremely rich people?

9. What topics are you most interested in covering in this course?