

Sociology 3010

Social Inequality

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Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:20 a.m., TTH 9:30-10:20 a.m., or by appointment.

NOTE: This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what will be covered during the course, and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as course needs arise.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to help you understand the nature of stratification and inequality in society. Stratification and inequality are core subjects in sociology. When we look at society we realize that no all members experience society the same. While this may be self evident, we will endeavor to not only describe how it occurs, but seek for explanation of why. This process of disaggregation is an important element in the sociological process.

READINGS

Textbook

Doob, Christopher B. 2013. *Social Inequality and Social Stratification in US Society*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

Sociology Writing Group. 2013. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers, 7th ed.* New York: Worth Publishers. You can use an earlier edition.

Additional Readings on Canvas.

Book for Book Review

Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2013. *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers our Future*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

You will be evaluated on a book review (20%), a midterm exam (20%), a reflection paper (20%), a group paper (20%), and a group presentation of your paper (10%) used to evaluate your knowledge of class material. Your attendance and participation (10% combined) will also count toward the final grade. Attendance will be taken at each class period and participation will be noted. Participation is vital to a course of this nature. These issues are not cut-and-dry; they deserve discussion.

Book Review: After reading *The Price of Inequality* evaluate it in about four or so double spaced pages, covering the points made in chapter 6 of *The Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*. This book review is due on **Thursday, February 2nd**.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam is a take-home exam. It will be given out in week 8. There will be a choice of questions, each of which will need 2-4 pages to answer. Chapter 2 of *The Guide of Writing Sociology Papers* can help you with framing your answers. The midterm exam is due **Thursday, March 19th**.

Reflection Paper: The reflection paper is about you and your experiences. Look at yourself in terms of social stratification. Where do you fall? Have you changed your position? What have been your opportunities? Have you taken them? Be sure to consider social class, sex, age, and ethnicity. Consider where you have lived. Make connections between your personal experiences and the larger social system, using your sociological imagination (ala C. Wright Mills). This reflection paper is due **Thursday, April 9th**.

Group Paper: For the group paper, you will be assigned to a group which will chronicle a particular social class as it is represented in the Top of Utah. This paper is to combine visual sociology with a traditional library/research

paper. You are to go out and take pictures of representations of the social class you have been assigned to chronicle. This includes, but is not limited to, housing, clothing, transportation, education, food, shopping locations, leisure activities, and work. You may supplement the photos with interviews. The photos should be presented within the paper with detailed captions. For the more traditional paper part, locate at least ten different sources of information on the topic, other than the *required text*. This can include books, academic journals, newspapers, news magazines and/or television/radio news programs, or their Internet equivalents. No more than two sources can come from the same medium. This group paper is due **on April 29th**. Be sure to use *The Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*, chapters 4, 5, 7, and 9 in writing the paper. This research project will be presented to the class the **last day of class**.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

95% = A	87% = B+	77% = C+	65% = D+	<60% = F
90% = A-	83% = B	73% = C	60% = D	
	80% = B-	70% = C-		

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more information: <http://weber.edu/ssd> For more information about the SSD contact them at 801-626-6413, ssd@weber.edu or departments.weber.edu/ssd

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In addition to, but *not instead of*, assigned readings, you may wish to consult other sources (including discussing assignments with other students). This is acceptable, but is not required. However, in all instances, you must do your own work and credit must be given where credit is due. There is no excuse for plagiarism, or for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording, as your own. As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any assignment or exam you will receive a failing grade for the course and your name will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Any student who does not understand how to avoid plagiarism must request assistance from the instructor.

WSU subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require that some or all of your assignments be submitted to Turnitin this semester. Documents submitted to Turnitin are retained, anonymously, in the company’s databases.

Emergency Closure: If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

Note: The following schedule represents my best guess about what we will be doing in this class this semester. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, the due dates of all readings and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be announced in advance in class. Each student is responsible for keeping track of all changes.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1	Introduction to Stratification and Inequality	Chapter 1
2	Theories of Stratification and Inequality	Chapter 2
3	Theories of Stratification and Inequality	Chapter 2
4	The Global Context	Chapter 3
5	Where is the American Dream? Class or Caste System?	Chapter 4
6	Keeping what's mine: Wealth, Power and Rent Seeking	Chapter 4; Book Review due 2/19/2015
7	The Rich	Chapter 5; Richistan Reading
8	The Upper Middle Class	Chapter 6; Bobo's in Paradise Reading
Spring Break March 9-13, 2015		
9	The Lower Middle Class	Chapter 6; TBA Reading Midterm due 3/19/2015
10	The Working Class	Chapter 7; TBA Reading
11	The Poor	Chapter 8; TBA Reading
12	Racism and Inequality	Chapter 9; Reflections paper due 4/9/2015
13	Sexism and Inequality	Chapter 10
14	Wrapping up; Presentation of Group Projects	Chapter 11 Group Presentations Thursday, 4/23/2015
Finals Week		Group Projects due Wednesday, 4/29/2015