



David McLimans, http://www.rethinkingschools.org/img/archive/19_03/RS53.gif

Social Inequality & Stratification

SOC F263 F01 Spring 2008 Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:45-11:15
Jan. 24-May 10 413 Gruening

Course description

This course examines social inequality and stratification—key concepts in sociology. Until recently, analyses of stratification have been limited to social class inequalities. Contemporary sociologists examine stratification and inequality using an intersectional approach to understand how ethnicity, sexuality, race, gender, class, dis/ability, and other dimensions of difference affect our life chances. In addition, interlocking systems of privilege are scrutinized so we can theorize how they maintain and reproduce inequality. This class will provide you with a foundation for understanding social inequality in its multiple and intersectional forms. The course will also give you opportunities to do “public sociology” by visibly putting sociological concepts to work here on campus.

Course objectives

There are several primary objectives of the course:

- to apply sociological perspectives, the sociological imagination, and a critical social justice framework to the study of inequalities
- to explore the intersectionality of issues of inequality, especially along the dimensions of gender, race, ethnicity, class, dis/ability, and sexuality
- to interrogate systems of privilege, including our own compliance with these systems
- to develop our critical thinking skills, to challenge our commonsense assumptions, and to expand our sociological imaginations as we apply these skills to the subject matter
- to do public sociology
- to enjoy learning and to create a feeling of community among ourselves

Prerequisites

SOC 100X and SOC 201, or permission of the instructor

Required Texts

- Johnson, Allan G. 2004. *Privilege, Power, & Difference* (2nd edition). McGraw-Hill. ISBN 0-07-287489-9.
- Hurst, Charles E. 2007. *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences* (6th edition). Pearson/Allyn & Bacon. ISBN 0-205-48436-0.

Professor contact info

Sine Anahita, Ph.D. (call me Dr. Anahita, pronounced “Ah-nah-hé-tah”) office: 702-C Gruening
email: sine.anahita@uaf.edu
office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:00, and by appointment
Visit my homepage for more information about me, my research interests, and to meet my dogs and cats: <http://www.uaf.edu/sociology/Anahita.html>



Course policies

I may modify this syllabus during the semester. If you have questions about my policies, please contact me.

Contacting me

The best way to contact me is through email or by visiting my office hours. I try to answer emails within 24 hours, but I do not check my email on weekends or at night. It is difficult to reach me by phone.

Reading

Study the readings carefully. As you read, think about the core concepts of each reading. You will find it helpful to take notes or write in the margins of your text. I read with a dictionary handy; I suggest you adopt this habit as well, because you will surely encounter new words in your reading. Plan to commit sufficient time to do the reading in a comprehensive manner. You must complete the readings as assigned. I will drop students who cannot demonstrate that they have fully read the assigned material as required.

Assignments and exams

Late assignments will not be accepted. Exams cannot be rescheduled for frivolous reasons.

Participation

I welcome lively discussion in class, but you must demonstrate that you studied the assigned materials and stay on topic. I expect you to be respectful of others, including those who disagree with you. You do not have to agree with me, other students, or course material, but you **ARE** required to utilize sociological perspectives when writing or talking about your ideas. You will be dropped from the course if you refuse to participate in class discussions, or if you fail to read the course material in a timely manner.

Sensitive topics

This course has material that you may find offensive, shocking, contradictory to your religious or political beliefs, or otherwise difficult. Please work to manage your emotional responses to the material. If you are having a great deal of difficulty with the material and cannot work past your reactions, please contact me. I will try to help you deal with the material, but we also may decide that you should withdraw from the course.

Extra credit

There are no possibilities for extra credit assignments.

Instructor-initiated Withdrawal

Expect an instructor-initiated withdrawal if you fail to substantially participate in the class. This includes chronically missing class, not being able to demonstrate that you fully read the readings as required, failing the first exam, or consistently not using sociological concepts in class discussions.

Incompletes

I will give an Incomplete grade (I) only in rare circumstances. The student is responsible for providing documents in support of the request for an I. Unresolved Incompletes become permanent Fs after 30 days.

Academic Honesty

Expect an F and/or instructor-initiated withdrawal from the course if you engage in academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, falsification, or having another person do your assignments.

Disability

UAF's Disability Services Office offers assistance, including academic accommodations, to students who have a documented disability. Please contact them for more information: website: www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html; phone: 907-474-7043; email: fydso@uaf.edu

Attendance and participation

Class attendance and full participation in class discussions are mandatory. You may miss up to four classes without penalty. You will be counted as absent if you leave class early, arrive late, refuse to participate in class discussion, or fail to read the assigned readings. After four missed classes, you will lose five (5) points for each additional missed class. You are responsible for obtaining notes, handouts, and other material from another student if you miss class.

Grading and assignments

You can earn up to 100 points in this class. For details, please see descriptions of each assignment below, plus the handouts passed out in class that include how-to guides.

Assignment	Points	Due date
Unequal Pay for Equal Work Project	10	March 6
News Analysis	15	April 1
Local Inequalities Poster	15	April 17
Equal Pay Day Action (class project)	15	April 22
Exams (3 @ 15 points each)	45	Feb. 21; March 25; May 1

Grading Scale

A+ = 97>	B + = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F <60
A = 93-96	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Assignments (refer to handouts for more details)

Unequal Pay for Equal Work Project ***DUE: March 6***

Get out your calculator and go to: <<http://www.aflcio.org/issues/jobseconomy/women/equalpay/>> Using the how-to guide passed out in class, analyze how much unequal pay for equal work will cost you, your family, and your friends during your lifetime. Your grade will be determined by your documentation of your understanding of related course concepts.

News Analysis ***DUE: April 1***

Find three news articles that pertain to issues of inequality and analyze them in terms of the course concepts. Each news article must focus on a different dimension of inequality. You are encouraged to use Internet news sources, but they must be a mainstream news organization, e.g. the BBC, CNN, or the *Fairbanks News-Miner*. News blogs or other non-professional, non-mainstream news sources will not fulfill the requirements of the assignment. If you have doubts, ask your professor. Clip or print the article to turn in with your analysis. Your grade will depend on the accuracy of your sociological analysis and your use of course concepts.

Local Inequalities Poster ***DUE: April 17***

Create a poster that graphically and textually illustrates examples of local inequality. Choose one theme, and develop your text and graphics around that theme. Use photographs, material from the UAF library archives, drawings, maps, photographs, or other graphics. Two thirds of your poster should be pictures, and one-third of it should consist of text. Your text should be your own, original description and analysis of the inequality. Use the text portion of your poster to illustrate your clear understanding of the course concepts. Your grade will depend on the overall creative effect of your poster, your accurate use of course concepts, comprehensiveness of your analysis, and the neatness and professionalism of your work.

Equal Pay Day Action ***DUE: April 22***

April 22 is Equal Pay Day in the US. The class will engage in a public sociology project focusing on this theme, the details of which will be decided as the semester progresses. This will be a student-centered project that will give you an opportunity to practice public sociology and to apply sociological principles to an ordinary issue.

Exams—3 ***#1—Feb. 21; #2—March 25; #3—May 1***

Each exam will include class discussions, readings, assignments, lectures, videos, and anything else that happens in class. The exams will consist of essay and short answer questions.

Schedule

Topics & activities	Date	Assignments (due in class)
Introduction to the class and each other	1-24	none
Corporations, privilege and power	1-29	Johnson 1-11; Hurst Chpt 1
	1-31	Johnson 12-40
	2-5	Johnson 41-67
	2-7	Johnson 68-89
	2-12	Johnson 90-107
	2-14	Johnson 108-124
	2-19	Johnson 125-153
Exam 1	2-21	exam 1
Economic inequality	2-26	Hurst Chpt 2
Status inequality	2-28	Hurst Chpt 3
Political inequality	3-4	Hurst Chpt 4
Sex and gender inequality	3-6	Hurst Chpt 5 Unequal Pay for Equal Work Project due
Sexual orientation and inequality	3-18	Hurst Chpt 6
Racial and ethnic inequality	3-20	Hurst Chpt 7
Exam 2	3-25	exam 2
General explanations of inequality	3-27	Hurst Chpt 8
Contemporary explanations of inequality	4-1	Hurst Chpt 9 News Analysis due
Impact of inequality on personal life chances	4-3	Hurst Chpt 10
Deviance, protest, and inequality	4-8	Hurst Chpt 11
Social inequality and social movements	4-10	Hurst Chpt 12
Student work day	4-15	student work day (no class meeting)
Social mobility and status attainment	4-17	Local Inequalities Poster due Hurst Chpt 13
Equal Pay Day Action	4-22	Equal Pay Day Action due
Justice and legitimacy	4-24	Hurst Chpt 14
Addressing inequality and poverty	4-29	Hurst Chpt 15
Exam 3	5-1	exam 3
Analysis of the course	5-10	8:00-10:00 AM (final exam period)