

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

SOCI 365 - 01

Course Times	M/W/F 9:00- 9:50 pm
Room	ICT 116
Instructor	Dr. Melissa Munn
Contact Information	Room 940, 220- 5267 (only during office hours otherwise use email) smmunn@ucalgary.ca
Office Time	Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 am until 11:00 am or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with an introduction to theories of social stratification and different types of social stratification systems. In this course we will examine the historical and cross-cultural variations in social stratification, systems of inequality, and the social policies associated with addressing inequality with a particular focus on how these manifest in Canadian society. Students will be required to consider the issue of social inequality in theoretical terms and apply this to 'real life' situations.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

McMullin, J. (2010). Understanding Social Inequality, 2nd Ed. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL:

Choose **ONE** of the following autobiography /memoirs

Wallis, J. (2006). The Glass Castle. Scribner

Johnson, Y. & Wiebe, R. (1998). Stolen Life: Journey of a Cree Woman. Knopf Canada

Ecott, T. (2008) Stealing Water: a secret life in an African city. Sceptre

GRADING SCALE AND COMPOSITION

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ 96-100	B+ 80 -84	C+ 67-69	D+ 57-59
A 90-95	B 74-79	C 63-66	D 53-56
A- 85-89	B- 70-73	C- 60-62	D- 50-52
			F 0-49

GRADE COMPOSITION	
Midterm Exam # 1	25%
Midterm Exam # 2	25%
Final Examination	40%
In-Class Assignments	10%

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Midterm # 1

This exam will be held on October 5th, 2009 and will cover material from Chapters 1 through 4 in your text and all class material covered from September 8 through to and including October 2, 2009. This exam will be a forced choice format (multiple choice and true or false.) You will have the full classroom period to complete the exam.

Midterm # 2

This exam will be held on November 2, 2009 and will cover material from Chapters 5 through 8 in your text and all class material covered from October 7, 2009 through to and including October 30, 2009. This exam will be a forced choice format (multiple choice and true or false.) You will have the full classroom period to complete the exam.

In-Class Assignments

Throughout the semester you will put into small groups to work on a particular topic in class. Your work will be submitted and you will be assigned a group grade. You will also have one short group presentation (under 10 minutes) to make in November. You will be given one full class period (November 6th) to organize your group and work on the topic together. This cumulative grade from these assignments will form 10% of your final grade. If you miss an in-class assignment, you will be assigned a zero unless you provide a physician's note to excuse your absence.

Final Exam

This exam will be scheduled during the University's examination period. This exam will cover chapters 9 - 12 of your textbook and class materials from November 4th to the final class. This exam will be a forced choice format (multiple choice and true or false) and short essay. The short essay question will ask you to specifically relate the course materials to the memoir/autobiography that you chose to read for the course. You will not be permitted to take your book into the exam with you and the books will not be discussed in detail during the course.

ABOUT THE MEMOIRS/AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

The Glass Castle: From the Jacket

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever. Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

Stolen Life: Journey of a Cree Woman: From the jacket and publisher's website

This is a chronicle of justice and injustice, the true story of the events that put Yvonne Johnson behind bars for life at the age of twenty-seven. Above all it is the unforgettable story of a Native woman who has broken a life-time of silence to share the understandings that sustain her. Characters and events spring to life with the vividness of fiction. The story is told sometimes in the first person by Rudy Wiebe, sometimes by Yvonne herself. He tracks down the details of Yvonne's early life in Butte, Montana, as a child with a double-cleft palate, unable to speak until the kindness of one man provided the necessary operations; the murder of her beloved brother while in police custody; her life of sexual abuse at the hands of another brother, grandfather and others; her escape to Canada - to Winnipeg and Wetaskiwin; the traumas of her life that led to alcoholism, and her slow descent into hell despite the love she found with her husband and three children. **WARNING: THIS BOOK INCLUDES VERY DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS OF SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE THAT SOME READERS MAY FIND DISTURBING.**

Stealing Water, a secret life in an African city: from a review

Tim Ecott's family swapped Northern Ireland for apartheid Johannesburg in the 1970s. But just six months after arriving the family was bankrupt, evicted from their home and the bailiffs had confiscated most of their possessions. While friends and relatives imagined they were living enviable lives in the sun, the reality was that the family was cast adrift. Forced to survive on their wits, they entered a twilight world where their true friends were prostitutes, thieves and renegades. At the heart of *Stealing Water* is Tim's mother, who rises magnificently to the occasion, keeping the family afloat with her shop, *The Whatnot*. Situated in an arcade running underneath the streets of Johannesburg, it's the perfect place to keep below the radar of the police.

LOGISTICS

Emergency evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms you need online:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre. Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Ethics Research:

Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct:

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk:

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation:

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials. If work is assigned and missed during one of those, the same policy as those employed for deferred examination will be followed.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Changes to the schedule may occur. Students will be notified in class and on Blackboard of any changes. Students are expected to complete the reading PRIOR to the class.

WEEK OF	TOPIC	READINGS
September 7, 2009	INTRODUCTION	Chapter 1
September 14, 2009	CLASS & INEQUALITY	Chapter 2
September 21, 2009	GENDER & INEQUALITY	Chapter 3
September 28, 2009	RACE, ETHNICITY & INEQUALITY	Chapter 4
October 5, 2009	MIDTERM # 1 (October 5) AGE	Chapter 5
October 12, 2009	AGENCY	Chapter 6
October 19, 2009	CAGE	Chapter 7
October 26, 2009	FAMILIES	Chapter 8
November 2, 2009	MIDTERM #2 (November 2) PAID WORK	Chapter 9
November 9, 2009	Presentations (Groups 1-5)	
November 16, 2009	Presentations (Group 6-10) EDUCATION	Chapter 10
November 23, 2009	HEALTH	Chapter 11
November 30, 2009	THE STATE	Chapter 12
December 7, 2009	MAKING LINKS	
December 11-21	FINAL EXAM – date determined by Registrar	