

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Soci365: Social Stratification

Summer 2011

MW 14:00-16:50

Location: SB 146

University of Calgary - Department of Sociology

This course makes use of Blackboard to communicate information to students. To access Blackboard, go to: [blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca) OR [my.ucalgary.ca](http://my.ucalgary.ca)

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Office hours: MW: 12:30 PM-1:30 PM; or by appointment

**Email guidelines:** Please use email to inform me if of specific important events (e.g. missing the midterm test due to sickness something important) or to ask simple questions as to whether certain topics will be covered in a test or recommended citation styles, or to book an appointment outside of scheduled drop-in office hours. For more complicated questions and discussions, please speak to me in person.

### Course Objectives

Over this six-week course, we will explore forms, causes, and consequences of social stratification with a particular focus on social class, gender, race/ethnicity, and access to forms of capital. We will discuss and examine how social stratification operates on various axes (class, gender, race/ethnicity), how forms of stratification come into existence and are perpetuated in a structural and interactional context. In this process, we will look into both theoretical approaches that explain and discuss inequality as well as look into the lived experiences of individuals facing different forms of inequality.

The objective of this course is to enable the student to identify and critically discuss the different forms of social inequality using different theoretical approaches to social inequality. In addition, the student would learn how to relate the learned experience in this course with their own daily lived experience and be able to evaluate ordinary life experiences with various interacting dimensions of social stratification. Finally, the student should be able to identify the values and beliefs congruent with different forms of stratification and how they are more intensified or subdued in particular situations and contexts.

**Please note:** Reading the assigned material, an open and curious mind, and your active participation is required for this class to reach its fullest potential and to make it a rewarding experience for you and me. Furthermore, attendance is important in all the classes. If you miss a class, you will miss material relevant to your success in this course. To attend classes regularly is your responsibility. If you have to miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the covered material from one of your class mates.

### **Required Readings and Materials**

(Available through the U of C bookstore)

- McMullin, Julie. 2010. *Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

### **Supplementary/Additional Required Readings**

(Articles available through BlackBoard under Course Documents)

1. Turner, Brian S. 1986. "Types of Inequality". Pp 34-65 in *Equality*, Chichester: Ellis Harwood.
2. Wright, Erik Olin. 1996. "The continuing relevance of class analysis." *Theory and Society* 25:693-716.
3. Satzewich, Vic. 1999. pp 311-346 "The Political Economy of Race and Ethnicity" in Peter S. Li (ed) *Racism*, Oxford University Press.
4. Collins, Patricia Hill. 2003. "Toward a new vision: Race, class, and gender as categories of analysis and connection." Pp. 331-348 in *Privilege: A reader*, edited by Michael S. Kimmel and Abby L. Ferber. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
5. Harris, Scott R. 2003. "Critiquing and expanding the sociology of inequality: Comparing functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives." *Quarterly Journal of Ideology* 25:1-21.
6. Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The forms of capital." Pp. 241-258 in *Handbook of theory and research for the sociology of education*, edited by John Richardson. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

### **Optional Readings (will be posted in blackboard for referencing purposes but are NOT compulsory readings)**

- Wright, Elin Olin. 1997. "Class Structure in Comparative Perspective". Pp 45-74 in *Class Counts: Comparative Studies in Class Analysis*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Feng, Hou & T.R. Balakrishnan. 1996. "The Integration of Visible Minorities in Contemporary Canadian Society". *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 21(3): 307-326.
- Grabb, Edward G. 2007. "Theories of Social Inequality: An Overview and Evaluation". Pp 205-217 in *Theories of Social Inequality*, Thomson and Nelson.
- Davis, Kingsley & Wilbert E. Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification" Pp 55-63 in David Grusky (ed) 2001, *Social Stratification: Class, Race and Gender*, Boulder: Westview Press.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Subject to change. Changes will be announced and discussed in class.

The following questions should guide your reading of course material and will help you prepare for class discussions: What are the author's main arguments? What new concepts/ideas/arguments does the author introduce? How do these readings relate to my learning in previous courses, previous classes (as we go along the course) and to what I experience as a member of this society? How am I reacting to these findings/arguments? Do they support or challenge my values, beliefs, knowledge? Why and how? How would I respond to the author's arguments? What questions remain unanswered? What is confusing/difficult to understand or brilliant about this reading? Bring your notes!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
<i>Introductory ideas on Social Stratification</i>		
July 4	Introduction	McMullin, Ch.1
July 6		Supplementary Reading 1
<i>Social Stratification: Axis on Class</i>		
July 11	Comparing Marxian and Weberian ideas on Stratification	McMullin, Ch 2
July 13	Class Structure in Contemporary Times	Supplementary Reading 2
<i>Social Stratification: Axis on Race and Ethnicity</i>		
July 18	Introductory ideas on Race and Ethnicity	McMullin, Ch 4 and Supplementary Reading 3
July 20	Relevance of Race and Ethnicity today	
<i>Social Stratification: Axis on Gender</i>		
July 25	Does Gender matter?	McMullin, Ch 3 & Supplementary Reading 4
July 26	<b>Midterm Break (No classes for all courses)</b>	
July 27	<b>Midterm</b>	
August 1	<b>Holiday: Alberta Heritage Day</b> University closed (except MacKimmie, Law, Medical, Gallagher Libraries). No lectures.	
August 3	<b>Short Paper due;</b> Revisiting the theories	Supplementary Reading 5
<i>Social Stratification: Structure Vs Agency</i>		
August 8	Actors and cross cutting influences	McMullin, Ch 6 & 7
August 10	Relationship of resources and capital in social stratification	McMullin, Ch 10 & Supplementary Reading 6
<i>The Intersection of Forms of Inequality</i>		
August 15	Review of the course	McMullin, Ch 13
August 17	General Discussion and Review	No Readings

## Course Requirements

### *Assignment Schedule and Outline*

	<b>Date due</b>	<b>% of final grade</b>
Midterm	July 27th	30
Short Essay	August 3	25
Quizzes	Every Wednesday	5 x 5 = 25
Final Exam	August 19 or 20	30

#### ***Midterm (30%)***

- (A) Format: A mix of short answer, short essay, true/false and multiple choice questions.  
(B) Content: All course material covered between July 4<sup>th</sup> and the day of the test.

#### ***Short Essay (25%)***

Topic: The essay would be a 3-5 page paper, that will require reflection and critical thinking on the student's part in deploying theories learnt in class and develop an argument. You must write on one of the essay topics provided by the instructor and you must answer all parts of the assigned essay topic. If you do not follow this instruction you will be assigned a mark of zero for the essay. A list of essay topics will be available. Detailed paper guidelines will be posted on BlackBoard (under Assignments).

References: Your key references for the essay must be academic books and/or academic journal articles.

Style: You must follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) style of referencing sources. The first page of your essay should be a title page that includes your name 3 and student ID. Begin the essay on the second page. Do not put your name or any other identifying information on any page except the title page.

Length: Between 1250 and 1500 words, excluding references and title page. You must indicate the word count for your essay at the top of the first page. Essays that exceed the word count will be penalized 10 per cent of the assigned grade for every 100 words, or part thereof, over 1500 words.

Submission: Please submit an electronic version of your essay in the Digital Drop Box available on Blackboard before midnight on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please use either one of the APA, ASA or Chicago Style citation.

**Due August 3.**

#### ***Quizzes (5 x 5 = 25%)***

Short 10 minute quizzes will be given to students every Monday on class. These quizzes would help prepare you for exams through evaluation of your understanding and clarity of concepts and ideas learnt in class. It is strongly encouraged that the student prepares to do well in these quizzes. There will be 5 such quizzes throughout the course, each one carrying 5 marks. Attendance in classes, a critical and curious mind, as well as attention and participation to class discussion should prepare you well for the quizzes.

**Final Exam (30%)**

The Registrar-scheduled final exam is cumulative. It is composed of multiple-choice and short answer questions, and will be scheduled on either August 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> (TBA).

**Grading Scale**

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84%	C+	67 – 71%	D+	54 – 58%		
A	90 – 94%	B	76 – 79%	C	63 – 66%	D	50 – 53%		
A-	85 – 89%	B-	72 – 75%	C-	59 – 62%	F	Less than 50		

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms. **To receive a passing grade in this course, all course requirements must be completed.**

**Assignment Policies**

If you are unable to take an exam or pass in an assignment on time, you must notify me in advance, if at all possible. 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 you have 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.

Assignments handed in late without good cause as defined above are subject to a 5 percentage point deduction per day past the due date. You will not be able to make up assignments not handed in. There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS!

*Deferred Final Exam Form:*

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

[http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf)

*Deferred Term Work Form:*

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

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

1. When you are unable to submit papers in class, you should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to me or the 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.

### **Academic Accommodation**

If you have a disability and require academic accommodation, you need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). It is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required. Please provide me with your academic accommodation letter no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. Please submit the Instructor Confirmation Sheet for signature. It is your responsibility to book accommodated exams at the Disability Resource Centre.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Please be 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.

### **Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals**

If you chose to challenge a grade you received for an exam or assignment, please refer to the Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals section of the University Calendar and follow the procedures outlined therein.

### **Ethics Research**

Please be advised that any research involving 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, you must not undertake any human subjects' research without discussing your plans with me, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **Protection of Privacy**

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's main office. I will return written assignments individually during class, or during my office hours. If you are unable to pick up your

assignment, you may provide me with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of your assignment.

### **Campus Safety**

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. You can also contact Campus Security from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

### **Emergency evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by ICT food court (primary assembly point) or by Social Science food court (alternative assembly point).