

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(www.ucalgary.ca)**

SOCIOLOGY 365 (Social Stratification)

Course Outline, Fall 2010

Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME

This course makes use of Blackboard to communicate information to students. To access Blackboard, go to: blackboard.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca

Instructor: Tom Langford Email: langford@ucalgary.ca
Office: SS 924 Phone: 220-5043

Drop-In Office Hours: Mondays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (cancelled on October 11)
Fridays, 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.(cancelled on October 1 and November 12)

Email guidelines: Please use email to inform me of something important (e.g., you are sick and will be missing the mid-term test), to ask a question that I can answer with a simple Yes or No (e.g., Is structural functionalism covered on the mid-term test?) 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 DESCRIPTION

Social stratification refers to a situation of patterned inequalities among social groups that are sustained over time. Contemporary societies are stratified in a number of different ways; therefore a more accurate title for this course might be **Social Stratifications**. We can also think about the different societies around the globe as making up a **stratified** world-system in which patterned inequalities among societies are sustained over time. Students of social stratification address questions like:

What are the causes of the social stratifications in a particular society or the stratification in the world-system of societies?

Why are some societies more class stratified than others? more gender stratified than others? more ethnically stratified than others?

Has a society become more or less class/ethnic/age/gender stratified over time? Has the world-system of societies become more or less stratified over time? What accounts for stability or change in stratifications?

Which type of social stratification (e.g., gender stratification, ethnic stratification, class stratification, sexual orientation stratification, etc.) is most important in a particular society?

How do the different types of stratification interact or intersect with each other?

What are the human consequences of each type of social stratification?

What values and beliefs are congruent with different types of social stratification?

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the sociological study of different types of social stratification. Among the specific subjects to be covered are: (1) describing the degree of income and wealth inequalities in Canada; (2) understanding the experience of patterned inequalities from the perspectives of subordinate/disadvantaged groups; (3) theoretical perspectives on social stratification in advanced capitalist societies such as Canada, the United States and Britain; and (4) identifying the ways in which social institutions are gendered, racially formed and organized as class systems.

REQUIRED BOOKS

(1) Grabb, Edward G. 2007. Theories of Social Inequality, fifth edition. [**GRABB in the course schedule.**] Please note that the fourth edition of this book, published in 2002, is almost identical to the fifth edition. The fifth edition has a short, new section titled, “Globalization and Theories of Social Inequality” (pp. 201-204).

(2) Andersen, Margaret and Patricia Hill Collins. 2010. Race, Class and Gender: An Anthology, seventh edition. [**RCG in the course schedule.**] This edition of RCG is significantly different from the previous edition. The authors have revised their introductions to each part of the anthology and included 26 new readings.

STUDENT EVALUATION

(1) Mid-Term Test, Friday October 29

(A) Format: A mix of short answer, short essay, true/false and multiple choice questions.

(B) Content: All course material covered between Sept. 11 and Oct. 25

(C) Value: 25% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

(2) Short Essay, due Wednesday December 1 in the Blackboard Digital Drop Box

(A) Topic: 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 before Thanksgiving.

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

(C) 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

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.

(D) 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.

(E) Submission: Please submit an electronic version of your essay in the Digital Drop Box available on Blackboard before midnight on December 1.

(F) Value: 30%

(3) Preparation for and Participation in Classroom Discussions on Assigned Readings

(A) Format: On at least five occasions during the term we will use part of a class to hold small-group discussions on issues raised by the assigned readings for that class. No advance notice of any of these classroom discussions will be given. The discussions will be preceded by a short written quiz to ascertain whether you are adequately prepared for that day's discussion. (Hint. Do not plan to leave the city early on Friday afternoons between now and the middle of December.)

(B) Value: 15% (with each classroom discussion/quiz weighted equally)

(4) Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination

(A) Format: A mix of short answer, short essay, true/false and multiple choice questions.

(B) Content: The final will emphasize material covered between October 29 and December 10. HOWEVER, you are also responsible for the editors' introductions to all four parts of the RCG anthology, and for our any classroom material directly pertaining to those editors' introductions.

(C) Value: 25% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

IMPORTANT NOTES

(1) Late Penalty. Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor's attention before the due date of the Essay, a penalty of 5% of the assigned mark per day will be assessed a late essay.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to write the mid-term test must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. At his discretion, the instructor will transfer the percentage weight to another component of the course, or set a make-up test. Make-up tests must be written as soon as possible at a scheduled Department of Sociology make-up test session.

(3) Please note that requests to defer the final examination or to defer completion of the essay past the end of the 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/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

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

You must submit these deferral forms to the Faculty of Arts 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.

(4) The quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work in this course.

(5) "Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge" (*Calendar 2010-11*, p. 48). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating (see pp. 48-51 of the *Calendar*).

(6) Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades.

1. Recall that your essay should be submitted through the digital drop box in Blackboard. If you choose to hand in a paper copy, you must make arrangements to hand in your essay directly to the instructor. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.

2. 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.) The return of your essay should not be a problem in this course since I plan to grade the digital copy of your work and return it to you by email. If you need to pick up something from me at the end of the course, you can do so immediately after the final examination.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available online.

(7) **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.

(8) Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 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.**

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

(10) **Emergency evacuations.** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom (ST 148), please proceed to the assembly point by Social Sciences Food Court (alternate ICT Food Court).

LETTER GRADES

At the end of the term numerical marks are totalled and a final letter grade is assigned on the following basis:

Percentage Range	Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Letter Grade
Less and 50	F	72-75	B-
50-53	D	76-79	B
54-58	D+	80-84	B+
59-62	C-	85-89	A-
63-66	C	90-94	A
67-71	C+	95 and higher	A+

COURSE READINGS

Note. The list of readings from GRABB (to be completed for our Monday classes) is complete. The list of readings from RCG (to be completed for our Friday classes) is incomplete. It will be updated on a regular basis – consult the “Assigned Readings” section of Blackboard for these updates. My intention is to have the assigned readings posted at least one week before they are due.

Complete the following readings for each of our **MONDAY** classes:

September 20	GRABB Chpt. One, “Theories of Social Inequality: An Introduction”
September 27	GRABB Chpt. Two, “Karl Marx and the Theory of Class”
October 4	GRABB Chpt. Three, “Max Weber and the Multiple Bases for Inequality”
October 11	no class (Thanksgiving)
October 18	GRABB Chpt. Four, “Durkheim, Social Solidarity, and Social Inequality”
October 25	GRABB Chpt. Five, “Structural Functionalism and Social Inequality
November 1	GRABB, Chpt. Six, pp. 114-135, Dahrendorf and Lenski
November 8	GRABB, Chpt. Six, pp. 136-163, Poulantzas and Wright

MONDAY classes list of required readings (continued)

November 15	GRABB, Chpt. Six, pp. 163-190, Parkin and Giddens
November 22	GRABB, Chpt. Six, pp. 190-204
November 29	No readings because essay is due on December 1
December 6	GRABB, Chpt. 7, "Theories of Social Inequality: An Overview and Evaluation"

Complete the following readings for each of our **FRIDAY** classes:

September 18	RCG pp. 1-16 and readings 1 (Madrid), 2 (Sayeed), 5 (Frye) and 7 (Takaki)
September 25	RCG pp. 61-70 and readings 9 (Williams), 10 (Gallagher) and 11 (McIntosh)
October 1	No readings
Following Fridays	To be assigned