

University of Calgary
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Sociology 365 – Social Stratification
Course Outline, Fall 2008

Instructor: Steve Dumas
Email: sfdumas@ucalgary.ca
Phone: 220-3215
TA: Nathan Turley
Hours: TBA

Office: SS1047
Office Hours: MWF 10-11 am
or by appointment
Classroom: MFH 162

Introduction: At home and abroad, Canada is regarded as a relatively egalitarian nation. Compared to many countries in the world, Canada is a wealthy state with generous social programs to assist those who may slip through the cracks at times. This is not to say, however, that homelessness, persistent poverty and significant inequality are absent from the nation. What are the causes and effects of social stratification? In order to better understand social stratification, should attention be placed upon individual attributes or structural factors? How does inequality manifest itself in Canada and how should it be dealt with?

Text: In addition to several Blackboard readings, we will explore the questions raised above using the following text: McMullin, J. (2004). *Understanding social inequality: Intersections of class, age, gender, ethnicity, and race in Canada*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. A reading schedule may be found on the next page. Students will be expected to carefully consider each assigned chapter/reading before class and make use of slide show notes available on Blackboard. Please realize that these files do not represent an exhaustive set of notes and are not an alternative to attending class regularly.

Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete this course.

1. Mid-term I 30% (October 6th)
2. Mid-Term II 30% (November 7th)
3. Final exam 40% (TBA scheduled by the Registrar's Office)

All tests will be in multiple choice format. Examinations will be based upon lectures and assigned readings. Thus, it is imperative that you complete all assigned readings (before each class).

Grading Scheme

A+ > 90%	B+ 77%-79%	C+ 67%-69%	D+ 57%-59%
A 85%-90%	B 73%-76%	C 63%-66%	D 53%-56%
A- 80%-84%	B- 70%-72%	C- 60%-62%	F <53%

Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is offered to you as a general guide. It is expected that some topics and readings may deserve further treatment and consequently more class time.

Date	Topic	Chapter
September 8	Introduction to Course	None
September 10	Social Class	1
September 12	Social Class	1
September 15	Social Class	1
September 17	Gender	2
September 19	Gender	2
September 22	Gender	3
September 24	Gender	3
September 26	Race/Ethnicity	3
September 29	Race/Ethnicity	4
October 1	Race/Ethnicity	4
October 3	Race/Ethnicity	4
October 6	Exam	None
October 8	Age	5
October 10	Age	5
October 15	Age	5
October 17	Agency and Structure	6
October 20	Agency and Structure	6
October 22	Agency and Structure	6
October 24	CAGE(s)	7
October 27	CAGE(s)	7
October 29	CAGE(s)	7
October 31	CAGE(s) and Families	8
November 3	CAGE(s) and Families	8
November 5	CAGE(s) and Families	8
November 7	Exam	None
November 10	CAGE(s) and Paid Work	9
November 12	CAGE(s) and Paid Work	9
November 14	CAGE(s) and Paid Work	9
November 17	CAGE(s) and Education	10
November 19	CAGE(s) and Education	10
November 21	CAGE(s) and Education	10
November 24	CAGE(s) and Health	11
November 26	CAGE(s) and Health	11
November 28	CAGE(s) and Health	11
December 1	CAGE(s) and the State	12
December 3	CAGE(s) and the State	12
December 5	CAGE(s) and the State	12
TBA	Final	

As this schedule is designed to be flexible, attendance at each class is very important in order to be aware of any potential changes. Also note that some of the films we will watch may depict violent and graphic behaviour.

Exam Policies: You must provide advanced notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination 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. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you must arrange to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

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 at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATION_S.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.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

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: Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. 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. Term 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, 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.**

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of 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 only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.

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