

University of Calgary

Sociology 365 L 01: Social Stratification and Inequality

Winter 2008

Instructor: Ali Rezaei

Office: SS 940

Class: T R

Classroom: ST 140

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30; Thursday 11:30-12:30

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Course Description:

This course is an introductory survey of theoretical concepts and empirical research in social inequality, its sources and consequences.

Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the concept and different sources of inequality: class, race, gender, status, and regional disparities.
2. To examine major sociological theories of social inequality. Class discussions will be focused on the relevance of theoretical concepts to the study of inequality in contemporary societies.
3. To study concrete forms of social inequality in Canadian society.

Required Texts:

Edward G. Grabb (2007) *Theories of Social Inequality*, Fifth Edition, Toronto: Thomson-Nelson.

Book of Readings: SOCI 365, Inequality and Social Stratification, winter 2008, prepared by A. Rezaei, available at the University of Calgary bookstore.

Examinations:

There will be two mid-term and a final exam composed of multiple-choice and short essay questions. The dates and assigned weights are as follows:

Mid-term I	February 26	25%
Mid-term II	March 27	25%

Final Exam	Date to be announced by the Registrar	50%
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The final exam is cumulative and covers all materials covered during the term.

Exam dates are strictly enforced. In case you miss the mid-term exams you must contact me immediately. If you provide a documented legitimate reason, you will be given a makeup test at a date determined by the Department of Sociology.

Grading Scale:

Letter grades will be assigned on the basis of the following scale:

A ⁺	95-100
A	90-94
A ⁻	85-89
B ⁺	80-84
B	75-79
B ⁻	70-74
C ⁺	67-69
C	63-66
C ⁻	60-62
D ⁺	57-69
D	50-56
F	0-49

To receive a passing grade in this course, all exams must be completed.

Intellectual Honesty: Integrity in scholarly activity should be strictly observed. Please consult the University Calendar, pages 53-56, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Jan 15 Plan of the course, Course outline, Review of basic concepts; Chapter 1, in Grabb 2007, pp. 1-7

Jan 17 Equality and Inequality: B. Turner, "Types of Equality," *Book of Readings*, No 1.

Week 2: Marx and class inequality

Jan22-Jan 24 Chapter 2, in Grabb 2007, pp. 8-33

Week 3: Max Weber; a multi-dimensional concept of social inequality

Jan 29- Jan 31: Chapter 3 in Grabb 2007, pp.34-65

Week 4: Social Class and inequality in Canada

Feb 5 James Conley, 2004, "Working Class Formations in Canada," in Book of Readings, No 2.

Feb 7 J. Davis, "the Distribution of Wealth and Economic Inequality", in Book of Readings, No 3.

Week 5: Durkheim and functionalist theories of inequality

Feb 12 Chapter 4 in Grabb, 2007, pp. 66-87

Feb 14 Review of Classics; Introduction to Functionalist Theories of Social Inequality

Reading Week: Feb 17- Feb 24**Feb 26- Mid-term Exam I****Week 6: Functionalism and Social Mobility**

Feb 28 Chapter 5, in Grabb 2007, pp. 88-113

March 4 R.A. Wanner, "Social Mobility in Canada: Concepts, Patterns, and Trends," in *Book of Readings*, No 4.

Week 7: Forms of Capital and 'Social Reproduction'

Mar 6 Video: Sociology is a Martial Art (I)

Pierre Bourdieu, 1985, "The Forms of Capital", in *Book of Readings*, No 5.

Mar 11 Video: Sociology is a Martial Art (II)

Pierre Bourdieu, 1987, "What Makes a Social class? On the Theoretical and Practical existence of Groups," *Book of Readings*, No6.

Week 8: Education and Social Inequality

Mar 13 Harvey Krahn, 2004, "Choose your parents carefully: social class, post-secondary education, and occupational outcomes," in *Book of Readings*, No 7.

Mar 18 "Frank Parkin: the Bourgeois Critique of Marxism," in Grabb, 2007, pp. 163-171

Victoria M. Esses et al., 2007, "Prejudice in the Workplace," *Canadian Issues*, Spring 2007, No 8.

Week 9: Gender

Mar 20 "Linking General Theories to Gender and Race: Theories of Gender Inequality," in Grabb, 2007, pp 190-198

Janet Siltanen, 2004, "Inequalities of Gender and Class: Charting the Sea Change," in *Book of Readings*, No 9.

Mar 25 Jo-Anne Fisk, 2006, "Boundary Crossing: Power and Marginalization in the Formation of Canadian Aboriginal Women's Identities," *Gender and Development*, 14 (2): 247-285, in *Book of Readings*, No 10.

Mar27: Mid-term Exam II

Week 10: Race, Ethnicity and Immigration

April 1 Sean P. Hier and Kevin Walby, 2006, "Competing Analytical Paradigms in the Sociological Study of Racism in Canada," *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, 38(1): 83-104, in *Book of Readings*, No. 11

April 3 Peter S. Li, 2004, "Social Capital and Economic Outcomes for Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities," *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 5(2): 171-190, in *Book of Readings*, No 12.

Video: Access denied

Week 11: Regional Issues and Social Inequality

April 8 Mario Polese and Richard Shearmur, 2006, "Why some regions will decline: A Canadian case study with thoughts on local development strategies," *Papers in Regional Science*, 85 (1):23-46, in *Book of Readings*, No 13.

April 10 Gerd Nollmann and Herman Strasser 2007, "The Twofold Class Concept: Traditional Limitations and New Perspectives of Class Research," *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 32(3): 371-397, in *Book of Readings*, No. 14.

Week 12: Review and Final Exam Preparation

Apr 15-Apr 17 Review of Concepts and issues; Final Exam Review

Exam Policies: You must provide advance 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 will be able 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.

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.