

University of Calgary
SOCIOLOGY 365.01: Social Stratification and Inequality
Winter 2015

Instructor: Dr. Cora Voyageur
Office: SST 906
Class: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00-11:50
Classroom: CH C105
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Safewalk, Security, and all other On-Campus Emergencies (24 Hrs) Call 5555

Course Prerequisite: Sociology 201 or consent of the Department.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the sociological study of inequality and social stratification. It is designed to introduce the student to major concepts, assumptions, research findings, and theoretical explanations on the topic. Special focus will be given to the structural inequalities and their manifestations in Canadian society.

Class Format:

Class sessions will combine several formats: lectures based on topics in the text, small and large group discussions of issues raised in lectures, guest lectures, videos, and class questions. I briefly cover the assigned readings in class and will lecture from additional materials on the topic. You are responsible for reading the assigned materials prior to the class.

Required Texts:

Grabb, Edward, G. (2005) *Theories of Social Inequality: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives*. (5th) Toronto: Harcourt Brace & Company.

Deborah Brock, Rebecca Raby and Mark Thomas. (2012) *Power and Everyday Practices*. Toronto: Nelson Books

Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the sociological concept of social stratification inequality.
2. To familiarize students with various theories of social stratification and inequality.
3. To identify factors and characteristics responsible for social stratification in our society.
4. To explore manifestations of inequality Canadian society, their impact, and to propose possible solutions.
5. To discuss and remain aware of various examples of social stratification and inequality in our contemporary society as they may arise from time to time during the term.

Evaluation:

1. **Examinations** 100%

There will be 1 midterm and 1 final examination comprising of multiple-choice questions. The examinations will cover lectures, guest lectures, videos, readings, and reserve materials scheduled up to the exams. This means that students will also be responsible for readings/topics not yet covered in class.

The exams are cumulative. This means that final exam will cover materials from the first day of class to the last day of class. Theory, perspectives, readings, and lecture material covered before the midterm will be included on the final.

The dates and assigned weights for exams are as follows:

Midterm	February 13	40%
Final Examination	Date set by Registrar	60%

Examination dates are strictly enforced. However, if you miss the midterm you must contact me within 48 hours of the missed exam. If you miss the midterm exam for a documented (a note from your doctor, etc. is required), legitimate reason the weight of the midterm exam will be applied to the final exam (a 100% comprehensive final). Otherwise you will receive a score of zero for the midterm. I will not give you a make-up exam.

If you miss the final exam for a valid, documented reason, contact the Sociology Department Office at the University of Calgary (403-220-6502) within 48 hours to apply for a deferred exam no later than the deadline indicated on pages 43-45 of the 2014/2015 University of Calgary Calendar. Otherwise, again, University regulations require that you receive a score of zero on the final exam.

NOTE: Receiving credit in all components of this evaluation is mandatory to obtain a passing grade in this course. This means that if you do not write the exams then you will receive the grade of “F” in this course.

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. Again, if you miss the midterm I will not give you a makeup exam. You will be given a comprehensive final.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP): The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having student’s retrieve assignments from a public place, (e.g. outside the instructor’s office, the department office, etc.). 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 their assignment from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Research Ethics: Students are advised that any research with human subjects such as interviews (including interviews with family and friends), opinion polling, and unobtrusive observation must have the approval of the Department of Sociology’s 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.

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 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.

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, Returning Final Papers and Release of Final Grades: 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’s main office. 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. The sociology department does not post final grades. They are only available online.

Electronic Classroom Etiquette:

Technology can be both a blessing and a curse. In recent years electronic devices have been the cause of a tremendous amount of disturbance in the classroom. Please get the most of your (or your parents') hard-earned tuition dollars by devoting your class time exclusively to classroom activities. Please be courteous to your classmates and professor by ensuring that your iPhones, pagers, or any other electronic devices are turned off and remain off for the duration of the class.

For those taking notes on a laptop, please be aware that your screen is visible to those both beside you and behind you. I have received many complaints from fellow classmates who have been forced to endure distracting, offensive and otherwise unsuitable images from others' laptops. Please remember that laptops are to be used exclusively for the purposes of taking notes during class.

Checking emails, text messaging, facebook/MSNing, surfing the Internet or engaging in any other type of internet/or electronic activity during this class is not permitted. Those who choose to ignore this rule will be asked to leave my classroom immediately. Students who have been asked to leave my classroom must meet with me before returning. Students taking class notes on a laptop computer will be asked to close their laptops from time to time to answer questions and/or engage in classroom discussions. Please be ready to answer questions or add comments to the classroom discussion throughout the class.

My Teaching Philosophy:

I believe that learning is an active rather than a passive activity. I want to assist you in your learning journey. Although attendance is not mandatory, I urge you to attend class regularly. I will not post my lecture materials or give you my lecture notes if you are absent. Class discussions, issues raised in class and information obtained from videos, lectures and other class activities can be give you some valuable insights and help you with assignments and exams. You will not have access to that information unless you attend class.

I am an award-winning professor. I love to teach and I hope it shows. I strive to provide a safe and non-competitive learning environment but one that periodically takes students out of their comfort zone. I encourage class discussion as a means of exploring topics, ideas, and sometimes controversies. Your point of view is important but may be challenged by your fellow students or me during this course. We may be dealing with sensitive and sometimes contentious issues in class. Your opinion may differ from those of your classmates. So please, remain open-minded and remember to be respectful of opinions that differ from your own.

Proposed Course Schedule
Sociology 365:01: Social Stratification and Inequality
Winter 2015

Week of	Topic	Readings
January 12	Introduction to Course Forms of Social Inequality	Chapter 1 (Grabb) Chapter 1 (Brock)
January 19	Inequality – Video – The UnCanadians	Chapters 2/15(Brock)
January 26	Karl Marx and the Theory of Class	Chapter 2 (Grabb) Chapter 6 (Brock)
February 2	Max Weber and the Multiple Bases for Inequality	Chapter 3 (Grabb)
February 9	Durkheim, Social Solidarity and Social Inequality Paper Proposal Due February 9 (Monday) Mid-term Exam February 13 (Friday)	Chapter 4 (Grabb)
February 16	Reading Week	
February 23	Structural Functionalism and Social Inequality Contemporary Perspectives on Social Inequality	Chapter 5 (Grabb) Chapter 6 (Grabb)
March 2	Power and Class Video - The Sterilization of Leilani Muir	Chapters 13/14 (Brock)
March 9	Socio-economic Bases of Social Inequality: Video: In the Gutter and Other Good Places	Chapters 10/11(Brock)
March 16	Education	Chapter 8 (Brock)
March 23	Age	Chapter 7 (Brock)
March 30	Gender Video – Gender Tango	Chapter 4 (Brock)
April 6	Ethnicity and Race Video - Eighth Fire	Chapters 5/12 (Brock)
April 13	Consequences of Social Inequality Paper Due April 15 (Wednesday)	Chapter 3 (Brock) Chapter 7 (Grabb)