

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(soci.ucalgary.ca)

SOCIOLOGY 601-S01 (Social Stratification & Inequality)

Course Outline, Winter 2015

Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME

This course makes use of D2L to communicate information to students. To access D2L, go to:
d2l.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca

Instructor: Tom Langford Email: langford@ucalgary.ca Office: SS 924

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- (1) To read and become conversant with the research and ideas found in Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, and to identify the sociological implications of Piketty's scholarship.
- (2) To develop a broad overview of prevalent theoretical approaches and current research trends in the sub-discipline of social stratification and inequality, using as our guide David B. Grusky's edited book of classic and contemporary readings, *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective, fourth edition* (2014).
- (3) To give students the opportunity to identify, read, analyze and synthesize stratification/inequality literature that is directly relevant to their anticipated thesis research.

BOOKS and other readings

I have ordered two books through the bookstore, although it looks like you will need to obtain a copy of Grusky from another retail source because of a puzzling delay in getting copies of this book to Calgary. (We can discuss this issue at our first class.)

Piketty, Thomas. 2014. *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press.

Grusky, David B. (editor). 2014. *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective, fourth edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Depending upon student interests, a supplementary journal article or two or three may also be assigned.

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STUDENT EVALUATION

1. General preparation for and participation in scheduled seminars
 - for many of the seminars, each student will be assigned the task of preparing a “capsule summary” of the key ideas in a particular reading or chapter, as well as a short list of questions raised by that text
 - in addition, the expectation is that everyone will chip in and participate in our seminar discussions (you don’t have to say a lot in order to make a positive contribution, but you do have to say something!)

... value = 15%

2. Lead one seminar discussion on a thematically connected set of readings found in Grusky. Part of your job as seminar leader will be to draft discussion questions for the set of readings that will be circulated to everyone in advance. You will get to choose the readings to be included in the seminar you lead.

... value = 10%

3. Prepare a 750-word essay on the following topic: “What sociologists can learn from Thomas Piketty’s *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*.” Imagine you are writing this essay for inclusion in a newsletter that is circulated to a general audience of sociology graduate students, senior undergraduate students and professors.

Due: Wednesday 11 February (send as an email attachment to Langford)

... value = 10%

4. Term paper proposal
 - a brief (up to 1000 words) outline of the goal(s) of your term paper, including a preliminary statement of the argument you expect to make in the paper
 - the proposal should include a list of at least eight academic sources you will draw upon in your term paper
 - the idea is that you will write this proposal AFTER you have already completed a great deal of the reading for your term paper, have a preliminary outline of the sections of the term paper, and have formulated a preliminary version of the term paper’s argument
 - we will ‘workshop’ these proposals in one of our seminar discussions so that each student gets multiple sources of feedback

First draft due (sent only to Langford as an email attachment): Friday 20 March

Second draft due (circulated to everyone for workshopping at the following seminar discussion): Friday 27 March, 12 noon (please circulate by email attachment to everyone)

... value = 5% (for second draft)

5. Term Paper

(A) Subject. Please write your term paper on the same subject as outlined in your term paper proposal. If there is any change in subject matter, please consult with the instructor.

(B) Due date. Monday 27 April (please submit by email attachment). Early submissions are welcome. Extensions can be negotiated if need be.

(C) Referencing Style. Please follow a standard sociological style of referencing sources. A good choice is the ASA (American Sociological Association) style. One thing I ask you to do is include page numbers in the in-text citations, even when you are only paraphrasing or loosely borrowing material from a particular source.

(D) Abstract. Please include a 100-150 word abstract at the beginning of the paper. This abstract should highlight the main argument or arguments of your paper.

(E) Length. Approximately 5,000 words, excluding the abstract and list of references, but including any footnotes or endnotes. Essays that exceed 5,500 words will be penalized 2 per cent of the assigned grade for every 100 words, or part thereof, over 5,500 words.

... value = 60%

IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS

(1) Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to the attention of instructor prior to the due date of a particular course component, there will be a penalty for late work of 5% of the assigned grade per day.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to complete a required course activity on time must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor.

(3) *Deferred Term Work Form:*

Deferral of term work past the end of a term 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 Arts Student Centre (SS 102) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

(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 2014-15*, p. 52). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating (see pp. 52-55 of the *Calendar*).

(6) All of your work in this course should be submitted as an email attachment. It will be returned with comments in the same way.

(7) Academic Accommodation

Students who require academic accommodation need to register with Student Accessibility Services (MSC 452, 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 Student Accessibility Services and to request academic accommodation, if required**

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

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	Graduate Description
less than 40	F	
40-44	D	
45-49	D+	
50-54	C-	
55-59	C	
60-64	C+	
65-69	B-	" Minimum Pass"
70-74	B	"Satisfactory performance"
75-79	B+	"Good performance"
80-84	A-	"Very good performance"
85-89	A	"Excellent – superior performance"
90 or higher	A+	"Outstanding"