



**SOC 311-- SOCIAL CLASS, WEALTH/POWER
SECTION 01W-- CRN # 50102
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER-II 2014**

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COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures (Web Based Class): 7/7/2014 through 8/7/2014

This syllabus intends to help you clearly understand the course goals, expectations, testing methods and topics we are going through so you may maximize your performance. It should also help you avoid mistakes and misunderstanding that may affect your grade adversely.

Text

- Charles E. Hurst. Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences. 7th Ed. Allyn and Bacon 2010 (required). ISBN-10: 0205698298, ISBN-13: 9780205698295 (can be purchased through Amazon for the 7th edition).
- Additional materials will be posted in the course website.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

The main purpose of this course is to examine Social Inequality from a Sociological Perspective and provide an overview of the field of Social Stratification. Social Inequality, or Social Stratification, is a major feature of our daily experience. This course studies the distribution of three primary resources: class, status and power. Special attention is given to examine the ascribed statuses such as age, sex and race interacting with achieved statuses such as class, status and power stratification systems. Also the course will inspect the popular and scientific explanations of inequality, especially with respect to the high and low ends of the distribution of income and wealth.

- To examine the basic sociological concepts and perspectives on social inequality and stratification;
- To understand the major sociological explanations for social inequality both within the United States as well as the global;
- To recognize what practices and institutions shape these diverse social groupings;
- To enable you applying the course material to your real-life experiences;
- To compare and contrast the popular/public perception of inequality with an academic/intellectual analysis of inequality.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course is an eCollege online supporting course (a web based course). eCollege is a campus

wide web-enhanced internet teaching and learning support system. Students taking this course will be able to surf online course website, get reading material, download and upload assignments, take online quizzes and exams, check grades and cumulative points with percentiles anytime online. If you are not familiar with the use of eCollege or the Library Online Services, please avail yourself of the online tutorials which is available through your MyLeo web page.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As per the university rule, students taking one course with three credit-hours in summer section are expected to spend six hours in each unit on studying lecture online, watching videos clips, reading chapters, doing assignments, and preparing quizzes and exams.

Online Activity This is an online class therefore attendance is flexible! You are required to access eCollege while you have time to participate various activities. Your regular participation activities, including the time spent online lessons, short videos and virtual discussions will be counted with points. You are strongly encouraged to log into the course several times a unit to avoid losing ONLINE ACTIVITY (or USER ACTIVITY) points.

There will be several points for each unit's ONLINE ACTIVITY (total around 60 points). The points will not give to those who have less than minimum or zero minute of usage online in a unit. Excessive "absence" in online activities may result in further loss of points from your overall performance points. It can mean a difference of a final letter grade as well. So take it seriously.

Assign/Quiz Assignments will include reading chapters, writing reading summary, and doing chapter exercises, etc. Doing these exercises helps understand class material and prepare the exams. Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. You will have a plenty of notifications sent by emails. If you know you are going to be out of town and unable to access a computer, plan ahead. Late submission will cause a minimum 20% deduction of penalty for the first unit, and then 10% each subsequent unit late (up to 50 % deduction). No late submission will be accepted by the day and after taking the exams.

There are several questions (OPEN QUESTION) with page number of the textbook being given for students seeking answers each unit. In order to do well on "Open Questions", be sure to watch online lesson for every chapter and look at the page numbers indicated with the questions. Most questions have their answers directly from the textbook.

The style of a quiz will be multiple choices, true/false. Questions in your quizzes could be questions in your exams also. Make-ups will be given for students who have extraordinary circumstances but the grading will be an average of the two quizzes.

Writing and Presentation Your Project: (this assignment will not be required for summer course). As part of the course work students must complete a project "Experiencing Inequalities in My Life". It is based on your cumulative knowledge of social inequality and its consequences learned in this course so that work diligently from the beginning of

the semester is needed. Students will also be arranged in presentation of his/her own project. Virtual presentations will be taken place about the last second of the semester. The instructor will provide assistance online or during office hours and, if necessary, appointments can be set up to discuss any problems that could arise.

Exams There will be two exams during the semester. These exams will be based on online lessons, readings, and those quizzes you have taken and will be multiple choices, short essays. The exams are timed and will be taken online. Students may prepare for the exams by using notebooks and textbooks. Student may not share notes with other students during the exams. Students will be provided with a study guide prior to the exams. Make-ups will be given for students who have an extraordinary circumstance but the grading will be an average of the two quizzes (exams).

Student Performance Expectations

Students enrolled in this course will automatically be entered in a Stimulative Grading Scheme (SGS). This scheme provides an incentive to students who are excelling academically in this course. The SGS provides students with "Distribution Points to Date (in Percentile)" three or four time in the semester, so students will be easily having a perception of his/her performance with a percentile rank in the class. So students are highly encouraged to have great user activities, submitting all assignments on time, and standing in the higher percentile of the distribution charts.

Grading Policy YOU EARN YOUR OWN POINTS

Online Activity	60
Homework/Reading/Quizzes	140
Midterm Exam	80
Final Exam	80
Overall performance	40
Total	400

Overall performance points (40 points) based primarily on a ranking percentile in the class will be added on a student’s total points by the end of the semester. For instance, a student who is at the 80th percentile will receive 36 points, and a student who is at the 60th percentile will receive 28 points and so on (See the detail at Stimulative Grading Scheme in eCollege).

Final letter grade: A: 360-400
 B: 320-359
 C: 280-319
 D: 240-279
 F: below 239

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIAL NEEDS

This is a web-based course and some obvious technological resources will be required. Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means that our course works best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0 or 8.0). Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege

also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

- Word processing software (Microsoft Word preferred);
- Some floppy diskettes or jump drive to use exclusively for this class;
- A speaker for watching videos when student using computer at lab or at home;
- You are strongly recommended to have a computer with Internet connections at home to complete course assignments and online quizzes.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Cheating & Plagiarism

It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Department policy provides that anyone caught cheating in any form or fashion will receive an “F” for the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of others’ words, phrases, and ideas in your writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law.

Your written work and final paper will require to be submitted into DropBox (linking to TurnItIn) in eCollege. More than 25% similarity on a paper reported will not be accepted for grading.

Policies on Enrollment, “X”, “DP,” “DF,” and Withdrawal

Every student has the right to drop the course without penalty until the drop date. Students dropping the course during this period will be given a DP (drop while passing). A grade of DP is GPA neutral, but a grade of DF counts as an F on your transcript.

If you choose to stop attending class, you may be dropped from the course due to excessive absences. If you are not satisfied with your grade in the course and wish you to drop, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. Once a grade of DP or DF has been registered, it won’t be able to change. A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled “Drop a class” from a listed choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Students should check the university catalog, current semester schedule, and other official sources for specific deadlines, policies, etc. It is the student’s responsibility to see that all university procedures are properly followed.

Student Requiring Assistance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Email Correspondence

In this course, email is an essential corresponding method and a supplement to lectures. This means that you can expect to hear from the instructor via emails regularly throughout the semester, such as using email for reminders, clarifications, last-minute notifications, etc. Needless to say, students are expected to check email regularly in daily fashion (a couple of times a day). Conversely, you should feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions, requests or problems that might not be addressed clearly in online lessons.

You may access to your email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other the university's emails) will go to this account. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email since the university spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and usually the emails in spam won't be checked.

HOWEVER in order to avoid duplication of questions and answers, please post all class related questions in the Virtual Office. This will be our Q&A forum. It is likely that your peers will have the same question. Emails of a personal nature or for a bonus point should be sent individually to the instructor's email address via eCollege.

If you are having problems in class, please contact the instructor immediately. Please understand that you should not contact the instructor only at the end of the semester being unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The course schedule is tentative and somewhat subject to change. Although this course will follow the schedule, it is possible that some adjustments will be made as we progress through the semester.

Unit	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	July 7-	The course outline and syllabus. An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality	CH 1
2	July 9-	Economic Inequality	CH 2
3	July 11-	Status Inequality	CH 3
4	July 14-	Political Inequality	CH 4
5	July 16-	Sex and Gender Inequality, Sexual Orientation and Inequality	CH 5, 6
6	July 18-	Racial and Ethnic Inequality	CH 7
7	July 21-	Review *** Mid Term Exam ***	CH 1-7
8	July 23-	Classical Explanations of Inequality	CH 8
9	July 25-	Contemporary Explanations of Inequality	CH 9
10	July 28-	The Impact of Inequality on Personal Life Chances	CH 10

11	July 30-	Social Consequences of Inequality	CH 11
12	Aug 1-	Social Mobility and Status Attainment: Openness in U.S. Society	CH 13
13	Aug 4-	Review for the final	
14	Aug 6-	Final Exam*** As scheduled by the University	CH 8-13