

Sociology 311
Survey of Social Inequality and Stratification

Instructor: Jonathan Jarvis
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Class Schedule: M-F Location & Time TBA

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm to 3:00pm or by appointment

Reading Materials:

1. Martin Marger. 2011. *Social Inequality: Patterns and Processes*. McGraw Hill (5th Edition) (ISBN 978-0-07-352830-4)
2. Correspondents of *The New York Times*. Introduction by Bill Keller. *Class Matters*. Times Books, 2005 (ISBN 978-0-8050-8055-1)

Supplementary Readings: Will be provided by the Instructor.

Class Objectives:

This course examines inequality and stratification in industrial societies and the theories that attempt to explain the persistence of inequality. We will examine fundamental questions about the fairness of inequality and the mechanisms by which the Upper, Middle and Lower classes compete for resources and reproduce their class positions and how this is changing with globalization. Questions about social class and social mobility are fundamental to our understanding of American and global societies as we are bombarded by media and political platforms both vilifying and lauding the merits and achievements of various social actors. How much of this success or lack thereof is due to ascriptive factors (i.e. family background, race, gender) and just how meritocratic is our society. The objective of this course is to examine the social world critically in an attempt to recognize these stratifying mechanisms we often take for granted and discuss how and why many of them are so persistent. This is an interactive course where we will use the academic texts, newspapers, magazines, television programs and film as discussion points centering on stratification and as an opportunity to internalize and understand these principles.

Assignments:

- Readings** You are expected to have readings completed in the day they are assigned in order to participate and contribute in the class discussion.
- Exams** There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The exams will be drawn primarily from the course texts and lecture material. The mid-term will consist of the readings and material covered in class up to the time of the mid-term. The final exam is a cumulative exam. It will be made up of the

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material covered over the entire course. You will have the class period to complete the exam, which will be taken in class on the assigned day.

Written Work Written work for this course is composed of 4 weekly responses. These weekly responses are comprised of a 1-2 page responses or discussion of the week's readings. These responses are due the Thursday before class and will be the focus of the class on Fridays.

Presentations Once during the semester students will make a brief presentation on one of the topics from that week's readings. This presentation can be drawn from the course material itself, supplementary materials or can be from a variety of sources (books, magazines, newspaper articles, films or television). The presenter will present their topic to the class and lead the discussion.

Grading:

Weekly Responses – 20%

Presentation – 10%

Midterm – 25%

Final Exam – 35%

Participation/Attendance – 10%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (May 21st — May 25th): Introduction to Stratification and Social Inequality

Readings: The Shadowy Lines that Still Divide (NY Times) & Chapters 1& 2 (Marger)

Discussion day: Weekly Response #1 due

Week 2 (May 28 – June 1st No class May 28th – Memorial Day): Class & The American Elite

Readings: Richest are Leaving even the Rich Behind (NY Times) & Chapters 3 & 4 (Marger)

Discussion day: Weekly Response #2 due

Week 3 (June 4th – June 8th): The Middle and Lower Classes

Readings: No Degree and No Way back the Middle (NY Times) & Chapters 5 & 6 (Marger)

Midterm: June 8th

Week 4 (June 11th — June 15th No class June 11th Kamehameha Day): Social Mobility

Readings: Supplemental Article provided by Instructor & Chapters 7 & 8 (Marger)

Discussion day: Weekly Response #3 due

Week 5 (June 18th — June 22nd): Stratification by Race & Gender

Readings: Chapter 1 (Class and Schools - Reich) & Chapters 11 & 12 (Marger)

Discussion day: Weekly Response #4 due

Week 6 (June 25th – June 29th): Stratification and Globalization

Readings: Supplemental articles (3) will be provided by the Instructor

Final Exam: June 29th

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Kokua

Any student in need of additional help, due to disability, can contact me personally and the KOKUA program officer to discuss ways to accommodate specific needs. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 or by email (kokua@hawaii.edu).

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student’s language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; and “dry-labbing,” which includes obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, and fabricating data to fit the expected results.”

- University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student Conduct

< <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm> >

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