

Sociology 411 (CRN 78261)
T/Th 12:00-1:15
Saunders 541

Instructor: Hagen Koo
Fall 2016

Analysis in Social Stratification

The purpose of this course is to study the nature of social inequality in contemporary societies and develop a systematic sociological understanding of its complex nature. The focus of attention is on the widening inequality in American society today and on the ways class inequality impacts our social, political, and cultural life. In addition to learning sociological theories and concepts about social stratification, this course also aims to teach research skills in investigating social inequality. The students will be encouraged to inquire into the nature of social inequality they experience around themselves, in their communities and in their work places, and apply sociological knowledge to investigate how class inequality is manifested and how it impacts our life, our institution, and today's cultural patterns .

Required Books:

Bell Hooks, *Where We Stand: Class Matter*.
S. Eitzen and J. Johnston, eds., *Inequality: Social Class and Its Consequences*.
Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation*
Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*.

Course Requirements:

Regular class attendance and active participation in class discussion are important. Students are expected to have read the materials to be discussed in the class in advance.

Other requirements include the following:

1. Three short essays or book reviews (3-5 pages in double space) on selected books used in the class.
2. One mid-term exam.
3. Classroom presentations (3-4 times) based on the reading materials of the week.
4. One research term paper on "Inequality in Hawaii" based on secondary materials or first-hand observation. The specific focus of the paper needs to be consulted with the instructor (about 10 pages in double space, including references and figures).

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature of growing inequality and its social consequences in the contemporary world;

2. Identify relevant sociological theories that explain how class inequality is related to other dimensions of inequality like race, gender, and ethnicity;
3. Write a research paper on a certain aspect of social inequality utilizing a proper sociological methodology;
4. Work toward clear and effective verbal and written communications.