

University of Hawaii at Manoa
SOC 311 – Survey of Social Inequality and Stratification
Fall 2017
TR 1:30-2:45 (BUSAD D201)

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Course description: Social stratification is the systematized and institutionalized division of people into hierarchal categories, accomplished through the vectors of class, status, race, gender, nationality, as well as other social characteristics. This course will provide a broad investigation into social stratification, mobility and inequality with a specific focus on how class, race, gender, and nationality intersect in US society, especially within the criminal justice system. Students will learn how stratification has been studied, theorized, and conceptualized through a sociological lens.

Student Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following.

- Comprehension of the concept of social stratification.
- An ability to discuss stratification in relation to the major theories used in sociological analyses.
- Familiarity with the ways in which race, class, gender, and other vectors of oppression function together and maintain systems of stratification.
- Familiarity with how stratification and social mobility play out in US society.
- An ability to do the above in effective academic writing.

Writing Intensive: This class is designated writing intensive by the University of Hawaii. In order to meet the requirements of this designation:

- At least 18 pages of writing are required from each student.
- This class involves both formal and informal writing assignments.
- Students will be given individual and aggregate feedback on writing assignments.
- Students are encouraged to schedule conferences during the instructor's office hours to discuss writing improvement.
- It is expected that students will use constructive criticism to improve their writing throughout the session.

Required Reading:

- *Social Inequality: Patterns and Processes* by Martin Marger (6th edition) ISBN: 0078026938 ***Please note that there is an option to rent this textbook on Amazon.com***
- Additional readings will be supplied on Laulima.

Assignments:

1. In-class quizzes: Every two weeks, students will complete a short answer quiz on the preceding weeks' material. These quizzes are designed to be low-stakes assessments of student comprehension of course readings.
2. News assignments: Over the course of the semester, students will complete two news assignments. To complete these assignments, students will choose one concept or theory from the course and find a news article that illustrates how that course material is manifest in real-world events. Students should summarize the news article and discuss how it relates to course content in a four- to six-page paper.
3. Final Project: For a final project, students will write a sociological research paper on a topic of their choosing, which relates to stratification. The final project will be completed in the following steps on which students will receive feedback:
 - a. Topical proposal (one page)
 - b. Literature Review (3-5 pages)
 - c. Paper outline and thesis statement
 - d. Final draft (10-12 pages)
 - e.

Grading:

- In-class quizzes (15%)
- Participation and attendance (20%)
- News Assignments (20%)
- Final Project (45 %)
 - Topic proposal (5%)
 - Literature review (15%)
 - Paper outline (5%)
 - Final Draft (20%)

Grading Scale:

94 – 100%= A	80-83%= B-	67 – 69%= D+
90-93%= A-	76 – 79%= C+	64-66%= D
86 – 89%= B+	73-75%= C	60-63%= D-
83-85%= B	70-72%= C-	59% or lower= F

Accommodation Requests-

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at 808-956-7511 or 808-956-7612 (voice/text) and is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty Policy-

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code. In it, plagiarism is defined as follows: "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms" (University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992: 6).

Furthermore, it is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake," are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.

A brief summary of the American Sociological Association's Style Guide, which explains the rules clearly, can be found at: www.buffalostate.edu/library/docs/asa.pdf.

Any other forms of academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in academic dishonesty will be referred to Office of Judicial Affairs.

Attendance policy: Attendance will not be regularly taken during this course. However, students will be required to participate in and complete in-class group activities and assignments. Student participation grades will be a product of performance in this regard.

Classroom Etiquette:

- Students should make all efforts possible to arrive to class on time. However, we live in a city with significant traffic issues. As well, our campus has parking issues. The instructor understands that students may be late from time to time. This is okay, but students making a habit of being late to class will be addressed by the instructor.
- Cell phones should be turned to silent or off before class begins. If students urgently need to make or take a call, they can leave class quietly to do so.
- Please do not text in class.

- Please do not use your phone as a note-taking, or reading device. Use a laptop, tablet, or paper for those purposes.
- When emailing the instructor or TAs maintain a professional tone and take time to write clearly and explain your questions and/or needs fully. Include a greeting, body, and ending in your emails. Do not send emails that are simply attachments without any explanatory text.
- Classroom discussions may touch on sensitive topics. While students are encouraged to share their views, all views must be respected. Interruptions or insults directed at other students will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule:

Week/Meeting Dates	Reading	Topics/Assignments
Week 1 8/21	Chapter 1 Marger- An introduction to the study of inequality Review of Matthew Desmond's Evicted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course introduction • Key questions about inequality • Basic concepts in the study of inequality • Sociological perspectives on inequality
Week 2 8/28	Chapter 2 Weber-Class, Status, and Party Additional readings on Laulima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class theories • Karl Marx on inequality • Weber on inequality • Functional inequality? • Quiz #1 Friday
Week 3 9/4 (No class Monday-Labor Day)	Chapter 3 Burgess-Proctor-The intersections of class, race, gender, and crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class in the US • Class as lifestyle • Wealth and Income • News Assignment #1 due
Week 4 9/11	Chapter 4 Mills-The power elite Domhoff-Who Rules America?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The upper class and elites • Class and power • Sources of power in the US • Quiz #2 Friday
Week 5 9/18	Chapter 5 Film: The Merchants of Cool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The middle class and occupation • Changes in the US middle class • Consumerism • Writing workshop #1
Week 6 9/25	Chapter 6 Additional Readings on Laulima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining poverty • Poverty trends • Explanations of poverty • Quiz #3 Friday
Week 7 10/2	Chapter 7 Kozol- Savage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems of stratification

	Inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobility • Individual and collective mobility • Education and mobility • News Assignment #2 due Friday
Weeks 8-9 10/9, 10/16	Chapter 10 Rohrer-Disrupting the melting pot Alexander- The color of justice Film-The bastards of the party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race, ethnicity, and stratification • Minority and dominant groups • Changes in racial hierarchy • Quiz #4 10/14 • Topical Proposal due 10/21
Weeks 10-11 10/23, 10/30	Chapter 11 Acker- Is capitalism gendered and racialized? hooks- Dig deep: beyond Lean In Additional readings on Laulima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and inequality • Sex and gender • Gender inequality and work • Status of women across the globe • Feminist movements • Quiz #5 10/28 • Writing workshop #2 11/2 • Literature review due 11/4
Weeks 12-13 11/6, 11/13	Chapter 8 Harvey- Intro & Freedom's just another word... Monibot- Neoliberalism- the ideology at the root of all our problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideology and legitimation • Ideology in US society • Socialization and ideology • Neoliberalism • Quiz #6 11/11 • News assignment #3 due 11/11 • Outline and thesis due 11/21
Week 14 11/20 (Thanksgiving Week)	Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political economy • Taxation and government spending • The welfare state • Rough draft due 11/28 (optional)
Week 15 11/27	Chapter 12 Additional readings on Laulima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories of political power • Elites and masses • Race, gender, and power • Writing workshop #3 • Quiz #7 Friday
Week 16 12/4	No assigned readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course wrap-up and review • Workshopping final papers • Final paper due TBD

General Writing Guidelines-

-All writing will be graded on content, overall writing quality, grammar, and proper format.

-Content-

- Content should be relevant to the assignment topic.
- The paper must demonstrate adequate comprehension of subject matter.
- Any arguments should be supported with evidence, not opinion.
- The paper should not merely regurgitate class materials but expand upon them.

-Writing Quality-

- Writing should be simple, clear, and concise.
- Use vocabulary properly.
- Paper must be clearly organized.
- Ideas in the paper should follow a logical progression.

-Grammar and Spelling-

- All words, especially proper nouns, should be spelled correctly.
- All sentences should make sense.
- Proper punctuation must be used throughout the paper.
- Papers must demonstrate proper verb usage, especially in terms of subject/verb agreement.
- Spelling/grammar check should be used.

-Format-

- Papers should be double-spaced, using 12-point, Times New Roman font.
- Papers should be in ASA format. I have provided a link to an accessible online ASA format guide on Lualima.
- Sources should be properly cited.
- Papers must have a references page.
- All quotes should be attributed properly.
- Be extremely careful not to plagiarize. Self-monitoring for plagiarism is not a passive activity; you must be vigilant, actively examining your writing to make sure you haven't plagiarized.

* I strongly encourage any students who have trouble with or are unsure of their writing to utilize the **writing center**. More information is available on their website at

<http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/>