

SOC 411 (ETH & WI)
Analysis of Social Stratification (3 units)
Summer 2015
ONLINE

Instructor: Sanna King
Office: Saunders Hall 218
Office Hours: TBA

Email: sannak@hawaii.edu
Phone: (808) 956-3726

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The study of social stratification is the study of social inequality and social divisions. In this course we will examine socially organized differences in gender, class, nation, race, and colonialism and explore their relationships to systems and processes of oppression, exploitation, and subjugation. In addition, we will examine the historical, material, cultural and social processes that have created and enforced massive discrepancies in peoples lived experiences and access to and enjoyment of life's resources. Furthermore, we will explore how culture is used as both a tool of oppression and/or division, as well as a tool of liberation and resistance. The course is divided into three parts, beginning with "Foundations of Social Inequality," in which we examine the constructions of inequality through class and gender. Then we move on to "Race, Class, & Colonialism," in which we will examine the intersectionality of race, gender, class, and colonialism and the role they play in constructing and perpetuating stratification. Finally, in "Lived Experiences: Stratification in Popular Culture," we will discuss case studies of lived experiences of inequality and resistance through examining the history of Hip Hop culture.

Please note, this course has a Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Focus designation. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute at least 30% of the content. At least 8 hours of class time will be spent discussing ethical issues. Through the use of lectures, discussions and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; responsibly deliberating on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- Describe and evaluate different perspectives and ideologies of social stratification.
- Understand theoretical approaches to social stratification and inequality.
- Illustrate and discuss through written assignments concepts of social stratification and what roles gender, race, class, nation and colonialism play in processes, social structures, and systems of inequality and/or oppression.
- Describe how social stratification affects our societal framework.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Douglas S. Massey, *Categorically Unequal*

Jonathan Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*

Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*

**Additional readings will be posted on Laulima

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

As this is a writing intensive course, there will be an emphasis on writing with multiple writing assignments and extensive feedback provided.

1. Journals (15%) - Students will keep a journal of responses to course readings and activities (expected 1-2 pages, double spaced, per week). Typed journal entries will be due WEEK 4 and WEEK 9. Further instructions on the journal entries will be provided on Laulima.
2. Discussion Board Posts (20%)
Each student will do TWO discussion board (DB) posts each week.
 - a. First, each student will construct an original post by sharing a link to an article, video, media report, or book summary that connects a recent phenomenon to the course material for that week. This post should be approximately 200-400 words. This will be due by Wednesday night at 11:55pm (Worth 10%).
 - b. Later in the week, each student will construct a response post, commenting on another student's original post. This post should be approximately 200-400 words and will be due Sunday night at 11:55pm (Worth 10%).
3. Ethics Papers (20%)
Each student will write a short paper (2-3 pages) analyzing an ethical issue in relation to social stratification. Further instructions will be provided on Laulima.
4. Research Paper (10-15 pages) (45%)
 - a. Research proposal including bibliography (10%)
 - b. Rough draft of paper (10%)
 - c. Final Paper – Due Last day of class (25%)

Notification of an extenuating conflict or absence with documentation from a relevant professional is required and a reasonable accommodation can be made for any missed papers, class presentations, and/or late assignments.

If you are unable to or late in submitting an assignment, or paper, you must:

- 1) Talk with me at least 24 hours before the assignment/paper due date (email is acceptable).
AND
- 2) Have a viable reason (i.e. and emergency) for missing an assignment/paper deadline or turning assignment/paper in late.
AND
- 3) Have a note from a doctor or relevant professional explaining the nature of your emergency.

Late papers, class presentations, and/or late assignments will be accepted for students who meet the above three criteria. Those who do not meet the above three criteria will receive a score of 0 for the paper or assignment. Those who turn papers or assignments in late and do not meet the above three criteria will be marked down 10%.

GRADING

Participation	10%
Facilitate Class Discussion	15%
Journals	20%
Research Proposal	15%
Paper Rough Draft	15%
Final Paper	25%
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Total	100%

Grading Percentiles:

95 – 100%	A	80 – 82%	B-	67 – 69%	D+
90 – 94%	A-	76 – 79%	C+	64 – 66%	D
86 – 89%	B+	73 – 75%	C	60 – 63%	D-
83 – 85%	B	70 – 72%	C-	59% and lower	F

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- Classroom discussions may touch on a number of sensitive topics. Students are encouraged to share their views, and are expected to engage in discussions respectfully. Interruptions or insults directed at other students will not be tolerated.

KOKUA

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) in room 103 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH Manoa Student Conduct Code:

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Please note, class schedule may be subject to change depending on progress of the course.

Week/Meeting Dates	Readings	Topics/Assignments
Foundations of Social Inequality		
Week 1	Intro to Social Stratification Reading [Laulima] Karl Marx – “Alienation & Social Class” [Laulima] Weber “Class, Status, Party” [Laulima] Massey & Denton “American Apartheid” [Laulima]	Introduction and Course Overview Introduction to Social Stratification Online course introduction and discussion session: Monday 3:30pm - 4:30pm NO DB POSTS THIS WEEK
Race, Class, & Colonialism		
Week 2	<i>Massey – Categorically Unequal</i> Chapter 1-3	Paper Proposal Due: Friday by 11:55pm DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Week 3	<i>Massey – Categorically Unequal</i> Chapters 4 & 5	DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Week 4	<i>Massey – Categorically Unequal</i> Chapters 6 & 7	Journal Due: Friday 11:55pm DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Week 5	<i>Kozal – Savage Inequalities</i> Chapters 1-3	Ethics Paper Due: Friday by 11:55pm DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm

Week 6	<i>Kozal – Savage Inequalities Chapters 4-6</i>	Analytical Paper #3 Due: Friday 7/18/14 by 11:55pm DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Lived Experiences: Stratification in Popular Culture		
Week 7	<i>Chang – Can't Stop Won't Stop, Loop 1</i>	DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Week 8	<i>Chang – Can't Stop Won't Stop, Loop 2</i>	Rough Draft Due: Friday by 11:55pm DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Week 9	<i>Chang – Can't Stop Won't Stop, Loop 3</i>	Journal Due: Friday by 11:55pm DB posts due Wednesday and Sunday nights by 11:55pm
Week 10	<i>Chang – Can't Stop Won't Stop, Loop 4</i>	FINAL PAPER Due: Wednesday by 11:55pm NO DB POSTS