

Sociology 311 (WI): Survey of Social Inequality and Stratification (Online/Writing Intensive)

SYLLABUS: Fall 2016

Instructor: Alexandra Springer, PhD

Class meeting time: Online (Mon.-Sat. no set times, but due dates!)
Office hours: Virtual Office hours via [Zoom](#) (see also detailed instructions on how to join virtual office hours via your Android, PC, Mac etc.) and/or anytime per e-mail, or by appointment
E-mail: aspringe@hawaii.edu (preferred way to contact me)
Course website: <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>
additional information at <http://aspringer.weebly.com>

Virtual Office Hours

I will have virtual office hours via scheduled Zoom meetings. I will be in my Zoom room every Thursday from 1:00pm – 2:00pm (HI time). The name of the room is “Dr. Springer Virtual Office Hours”

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfernow.zoom.us/j/174219178>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): 14086380968,174219178# or 16465588656,174219178#

Or Telephone:

Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 174 219 178

International numbers available: https://cccconfernow.zoom.us/join?m=Veo-w0XrCQVYe4zqzgW1MwflF_S-ExVK

Online

This online course is similar to any traditional face-to-face course in some ways, yet different from it in others.

Difference: You do not have to find parking. If you own a computer at home you can even stay in your pajamas while participating in class. You can choose your own seat and even bring a pillow if it makes you more comfortable. You can eat and drink during class and you can answer your cell phone. Best of all you can work late at night or early in the morning – anytime that is most convenient for you.

Similar: You still have to do all the readings and you do have to participate in class. It is not possible to hide in the back of the room in an online course. If you don't participate in the course you will not pass this class.

Course Description

Sociology is the study of the social world; people, groups, organizations, institutions, political bodies, economies and power. Stratification is the study of how all of these systems are both products and producers of inequality. This class will introduce you to the sociology of social inequality and stratification through exposure to classical and contemporary theories of inequality and stratification, particularly in areas structured along lines of race, class and gender, data on the extent of social inequality and stratification in the U.S. and in the world, and discussions of some consequences of social inequality and stratification. This is a writing intensive course and to promote the learning of course material writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. In these assignments, you will be able to apply the knowledge you acquire during the course and they will help you polish your critical thinking and writing skills.

This course is designated as a Writing Intensive course. It adheres to the criteria set-forth by the Manoa Writing Program:

1. The course uses writing to promote the learning of course materials
2. The course provides interaction between the professor and students while students do assigned writing
3. Written assignments contribute significantly to each student's course grade (at least 40%)
4. Students write at least 4,000 words (about 16 typed pages - not including drafts and in-class essay exams)
5. The course is limited to 20 students

Course Objectives

1. Develop a descriptive and analytical understanding of social stratification and inequality
2. Explore central concepts through which sociologists investigate social stratification and inequality.
3. Become familiar with key debates that animate contemporary research on social stratification and inequality.
4. Consider and critique competing explanations for social stratification and inequality.

Course Goal

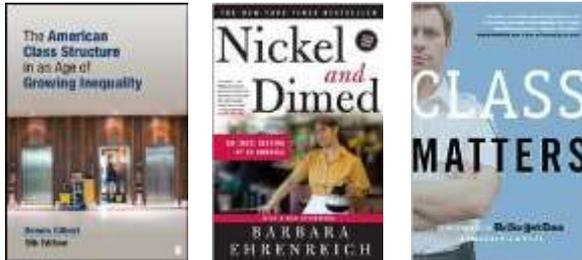
The goal of this class is to provide you with analytical tools for recognizing, analyzing, and working to solve problems of social inequality in the world around you. This course will also provide you with data on the empirical realities of social inequality and its consequences in contemporary society. Sociology provides the student with a toolkit for critical thinking and questioning the world in which s/he lives and works. Students should leave this class with an ability to read critically, write clearly, articulate clear arguments in their discussion, and use the tools of sociology to analytically observe the social world. Students will gain a better understanding of how their own experiences are both the products and producers of larger stratification systems.

The most practical goal in this course is for students to leave this course able to read a news story, watch a movie or television program, and see the larger social, political, economic and cultural systems that produce and maintain inequality in contemporary institutions and organizations.

Readings

All of the readings will be from the required texts and from reading assignments posted on the course website (under "Modules"). Complete all reading assignments for the week **prior** to the **weekly discussions**.

Required Books



Gilbert, Dennis. *The American Class Structure in an Age of Growing Inequality*. 9th Edition. Sage Publications, 2014. (ISBN 978-145-220-3416)

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed*. New York: Holt, 2008 (ISBN 978-0-8050-8838-0)

Correspondents of *The New York Times*. Introduction by Bill Keller. *Class Matters*. Times Books, 2005 (ISBN 978-0-8050-8055-1) [readings are marked as NYT in the schedule]

Required Computer Software (all free downloads)

You may need some basic pieces of software installed on your personal PC, or available on the UH campus lab computers:

QuickTime for all videos in streamed format (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime>)

Any modern web browser (e.g. Firefox - <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>)

Adobe Flash Player (e.g. <http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/>)

Course Components

There are four components to the final grade.

1. Four writing assignments each worth 10% (Total 40%)
2. Thirteen quizzes each worth 2% (Total 26%)
3. Fourteen weekly discussions. Each week you can earn up to 2% (Total 28%)
4. Final Exam (6%)

All assignments, quizzes, discussions, the midterm, the final and any additional information are accessible on the course website <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>

Grading Summary

Writing Assignments (4x): each worth 10%

40% of grade

Discussions (14x): each worth 2%

28% of grade

Quizzes (13x): each worth 2%

26% of grade

Final:

6% of grade

Total Percent possible

100%

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
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A+	= 97-100
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A	= 93-96
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A-	= 90-92
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B+	= 87-89
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B	= 83-86
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B-	= 80-82
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<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
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C+	= 77-79
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C	= 73-76
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C-	= 70-72
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D+	= 67-69
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D	= 63-66
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D-	= 60-62
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F	= < 59
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NETIQUETTE

Netiquette is a set of guidelines for good behavior in an online environment. It is etiquette for the Internet, and knowing these social rules can help you have a more rewarding semester. The netiquette guidelines discussed here are ones that are especially important in our online classroom.

- **Participate.** Participate in the weekly discussion
- **Remember the human:** This common Internet mantra means that even though we may not be face to face, there is a real person behind each discussion-board post. Do not write something that you would not feel comfortable saying in a traditional classroom setting. Discuss ideas, not people. In other words, do not attack a classmate for expressing his or her opinion; instead, discuss your position on the ideas that have been presented. Be kind and understanding with your classmates to keep our environment positive and productive.
- **Don't shout.** TYPING IN ALL CAPITALS MEANS YOU ARE SHOUTING AT US! Don't do it. The same can be said of repeated exclamation marks!!!!!!!!!!

Policies

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 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services

Academic Integrity

You are expected to understand and comply with the University's Policy of Academic Integrity. The integrity of a university depends upon academic honesty, which consists of independent learning and research. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. Violations of the Student Conduct Code may result in suspension or expulsion from UH, receiving a failing grade for the course or being referred to the UH Dean of Students for University disciplinary action. If you are unclear on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please refer to the catalog or by visiting the website <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm>.

Plagiarism

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.

University of Hawai`i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992), p. 6

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" is not considered a valid excuse when it comes to plagiarism.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assignments due	Quizzes and Exams
1 (9/5-9/10)	Introduction		--	--
	Social Class in America	Gilbert, Ch.1 NYT, Intro and Ch. 1 "Shadowy Lines That Still Divide"	--	Quiz 1 due by Sat. 9/10
2 (9/12-9/17)	Position and Prestige	Gilbert, Ch. 2 NYT, Ch. 14 "Angela Whitiker's Climb"	--	Quiz 2 due by Sat. 9/17
3 (9/19-9/24)	Social Class, Occupation, and Social Change	Gilbert, Ch.3	Assignment #1 due by 9/24	Quiz 3 due by Sat. 9/24
4 (9/26-10/1)	Social Class	Ehrenreich, Barbara. "Nickel and Dimed"	--	Quiz 4 due by Sat. 10/1
5 (10/3-10/8)	Wealth and Income	Gilbert, Ch.4	--	Quiz 5 due by Sat. 10/8
		NYT, Ch. 12: "Richest are Leaving Even the Rich Far Behind"		
6 (10/10-10/15)	Socialization, Association, Lifestyles, and Values	Gilbert, Ch.5	--	Quiz 6 due by Sat. 10/15
		NYT, Ch. 3: "A Marriage of Unequal's"		
7 (10/17-10/22)	Social Mobility	Gilbert, Ch.6	Assignment #2 due by 10/22	Quiz 7 due by Sat. 10/22
8 (10/24-10/29)	Social Mobility: The Societal Context	NYT, Ch. 7: "No Degree, and No Way Back to the Middle"	--	Quiz 8 due by Sat. 10/26
9 (10/31-11/5)	Family, Education, and Career	Gilbert, Ch.7	--	Quiz 9 due by Sat. 11/5
		NYT, Ch. 6: "The College Dropout Boom"		
10 (11/7-11/12)	Elites, the Capitalist Class, and Political Power	Gilbert, Ch.8	Assignment #3 due by 11/12	Quiz 10 due by Sat. 11/12
		NYT, Ch. 2: "Life at the Top in America Isn't Just Better, It's Longer"		
11 (11/14-11/19)	Class Consciousness and Conflict	Gilbert, Ch.9	--	Quiz 11 due by Sat. 11/19
12 (11/21-11/26)	Thanksgiving Week	Relax ☺		
13 (11/28-12/3)	The Poor, the Underclass, and Public Policy	Gilbert, Ch.10	--	Quiz 12 due by Sat. 12/3
		NYT, Ch. 4: "Up from the Holler: Living in Two Worlds, at Home in Neither"		
14 (12/5-12/10)	The Poor and Poverty	NYT, Ch. 8: "Fifteen Years on the Bottom Rung"	--	Quiz 13 due by Sat. 12/10
15 (12/12-12/17)	The American Class Structure and Growing Inequality	Gilbert, Ch.11	Assignment #4 due by Friday 12/16	Final Exam: due by Saturday 12/17 (midnight HI time)
		NYT Ch. 9: "When the Joneses Wear Jeans"		

**The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus according to class need and progression.*