

Sociology 311 (WI): Survey of Social Inequality and Stratification (Online/WI)
SYLLABUS (CRN:3389)
Summer 2018 (6/4-8/10/2018)
Instructor: Alexandra Springer, PhD

Class Information

Class meeting time	Online (Mon.-Sat. No set times, but due dates and deadlines!)
Office hours	Virtual Office hours via Zoom by appointment (see detailed instructions on how to join virtual office hours via your Android, PC, Mac etc.), and anytime per e-mail.
E-mail	aspringe@hawaii.edu (preferred way to contact me)
Course Website	https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal

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Course Information

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 an online 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 do not actively participate in the course, you will not pass this class.

Office Hours

Virtual Office Hours

I will have virtual office hours via scheduled Zoom meetings by appointment. 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=Veow0XrCQVYe4zqzgW1MwflF_S-ExVK

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.

Writing Intensive Course

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

Student Learning 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.

Course Materials

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]

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students should verify that they satisfy all minimum technical requirements before class begins.

Web Browser

Information Technology Services (ITS) recommends Firefox ESR (Extended Support Release) for use with Laulima. Currently, Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge do not interact well with Laulima and are not recommended for submitting assignments, posting discussion posts, or taking tests.

Required Computer Software

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

Adobe Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com/accessibility.html>

Adobe Flash Player <http://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/>

Laulima <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>

Firefox ESR <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/organizations/>

Apple QuickTime for Windows https://support.apple.com/kb/DL837?locale=en_US

Distance Learning at the University of Hawai'i resources

As noted on the [University of Hawai'i distance learning](#) website, distance learning is not for everyone. Students should have working knowledge of the computer and proficient online skills to be successful in a distance learning course. This includes the ability to perform basic computer operations, Internet skills such as accessing the web and using search engines, and the ability to use online communication tools such as email, discussion forums and chat.

- If you want to test your ability to become a successful distance learning student, take the [Self Assessment Quiz](#).
- If you are new to Lulima, begin by going to the [Lulima Student Help Section](#)
- Check whether your computer meet the [Lulima technical requirements](#)
- For additional information check out the [Online Learning Student Guide](#)
- [Student Orientation to Lulima](#) - A brief introduction to basic concepts in Lulima
- Student Tutorials - Presentations on specific tasks and tool usage in Lulima (in Flash, PowerPoint or html format)

Detailed Class Structure and Grading Procedures

Discussions

This is one of the most important elements of this course. You must participate in the weekly discussions to be considered for a final grade. In the column on the left side of your screen you will find the **Discussion and Private Message** forum (in Lulima). I will post various discussion questions throughout each week and every student is expected:

- to enter the discussion at least twice a week
- you must post on different days/dates. Multiple postings on the same day will be considered as one posting.
- If you do not participate you will be losing the points for that week. There is no make-up by 'over-participating' the following week.
- You can earn up to 3% every week for your participation depending on the amount and quality of your postings.
- It is not considered participating in a discussion when you "just post" comments at the end of the week. A discussion should be an extended, interactive communication between the instructor and all students throughout the week dealing with the particular topic of the week. I suggest posting your original post by/on Wednesday and the second post Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

Grading the Discussions

Your weekly responses will be graded according to the rubric on the next page. Multiple responses to various questions will improve your chance of giving a creative, well-thought out answer and will improve your chance of earning a high percentage for that week.

Quizzes/Final

- There will be 9 quizzes and 1 final exam
- All quizzes and the final have the same format (multiple choice and/or short answers)
- Each Friday of the week throughout the semester a quiz opens that covers the respective weekly materials (see syllabus for exact due dates and times). You have all day Friday and Saturday to take the quiz. It is always due by midnight (HI time) on Saturday.
- In the last week there will be a Final Exam instead of a quiz (same format as quizzes, but more questions and worth more towards the final grade).

Course Components

There are four components to the final grade.

1. Four writing assignments each worth 10% (Total 40%)
2. Nine quizzes each worth 3% (Total 27%)
3. Ten weekly discussions. Each week you can earn up to 2% (Total 30%)
4. Final Exam (3%)

Grading Summary

Writing Assignments (4x): each worth 10%	40% of grade
Discussions (10x): each worth 3%	30% of grade
Quizzes (9x): each worth 3%	27% of grade
Final:	3% of grade
<i>Total Percent possible</i>	<i>100%</i>

Grade Percent

A+ = 97-100
A = 93-96
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82

Grade Percent

C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66
D- = 60-62
F = < 59

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
	Introduction			
Week 1 (6/4-6/9)	Social Class in America	Gilbert, Ch.1 NYT, Intro and Ch. 1 “Shadowy Lines That Still Divide”		Quiz 1 due by Sat. 6/9
Week 2 (6/11-6/16)	Position and Prestige	Gilbert, Ch. 2 NYT, Ch. 14 “Angela Whitiker’s Climb”		Quiz 2 due by Sat. 6/16
Week 3 (6/18-6/23)	Social Class, Occupation, and Social Change	Gilbert, Ch. 3	Assignment #1 due by 6/23	Quiz 3 due by Sat. 6/23
Week 4 (6/25-6/30)	Social Class	Ehrenreich, Barbara. “Nickel and Dimed”		Quiz 4 due by Sat. 6/30
Week 5 (7/2-7/7)	Wealth and Income & Socialization, Association, Lifestyles, and Values	Gilbert, Ch.4 and Ch. 5 NYT, Ch. 12: “Richest are Leaving Even the Rich Far Behind “ NYT, Ch. 3: “A Marriage of Unequal’s“		Quiz 5 due by Sat. 7/7
Week 6 (7/9-7/14)	Social Mobility	Gilbert, Ch.6 NYT, Ch. 7: “No Degree, and No Way Back to the Middle“	Assignment #2 due by 7/14	Quiz 6 due by Sat. 7/14
Week 7 (7/16-7/21)	Family, Education, and Career	Gilbert, Ch.7 NYT, Ch. 6: “The College Dropout Boom“		Quiz 7 due by Sat. 7/21
Week 8 (7/23-7/28)	Elites, the Capitalist Class, and Political Power & Class Consciousness and Conflict	Gilbert, Ch.8 and Ch. 9 NYT, Ch.2 “Life at the Top in America Isn’t Just Better, It’s Longer	Assignment #3 due by 7/28	Quiz 8 due by Sat. 7/28
Week 9 (7/30-8/4)	The Poor, the Underclass, and Public Policy	Gilbert, Ch.10 NYT, Ch. 4: “Up from the Holler: Living in Two Worlds, at Home in Neither” NYT, Ch. 8: “Fifteen Years on the Bottom Rung“	--	Quiz 9 due by Sat. 8/4
Week 10 (8/6-8/10)	The American Class Structure and Growing Inequality	Gilbert, Ch.11 NYT Ch. 9: “When the Joneses Wear Jeans”	Assignment #4 due by Wednesday 8/8	Final Exam: due by Thursday 8/9 (midnight HI time)

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