

Sociology 311: Survey of Social Inequality and Stratification, Summer II, 2011

Department of Sociology
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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Class Time/Location: Monday-Friday, 10:30-11.45/TBD

Course Description

In this course students will develop a sociological understanding of inequality and social stratification. We will review the central theoretical perspectives on forms, sources and structures of inequality. Based on these perspectives, we will investigate questions about inequality generation, stratification by class, race and gender, and its cultural and political consequences. Students are expected to develop an ability to analyze contemporary inequality and its consequences.

Student grade will be based mainly on several short written assignments, quizzes and online discussions. In the essays, students should demonstrate that they understand the major arguments in the particular area. The essay should be significantly more than simply a summary of the reading. Students should elaborate critically some contentious points presented by different authors, and discussing the implications. In the discussions, students should engage in the topic addressed.

Course Requirements

A. Class Participation (30 points = 15% of course grade)

Each Thursday, we will spend about half of the class period to discuss the week's readings. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion sessions. This discussion will be led by class members. Students are encouraged to communicate interactively with me and other class members throughout lecture sessions.

B. Short Reaction Papers (150 points = 75% of course grade)

Short reaction papers are due every Thursday midnight (HI time). Papers should be 1 or 2 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point type, one inch margins) and submitted online by using the "Mailtool" function of *Laulima*. They should summarize all of the main points of all of the reading assigned in the preceding week. The paper should be significantly more than simply a

summary of the reading. Students should elaborate critically some contentious points presented by different authors, and discuss the implications. Each reaction paper will be worth 25 points, or 12.5% of your course grade. *I will not accept late papers, except in the case of serious and documented emergencies.*

C. Quizzes (20 points= 10% of course grade)

There will be quizzes posted on Laulima every Friday. Each will consist of short essay questions, and will cover readings and discussions from the preceding week. The response has to be about 100 words and is due Saturday midnight (HI time). Each quiz will be worth 4 points. *I will not give make-up quizzes, except in the case of serious and documented emergencies.*

Required Texts

Grusky, D. B., M. C. Ku, and S. Szelenyi (Eds.). 2008. *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective*. 3rd ed. Boulder: Westview Press.

A Book recommended:

Crompton, Rosemary. 1993. *Class and Stratification: An Introduction to Current Debates*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Course Grades

The maximum number of points you can earn from all assignments and participations is 200 (30 from class participations, 150 from short reaction papers, and 20 from quizzes). Your course grade will equal your total points divided by 50. If you get perfect scores, your grade will be as follows:

Class participation: $5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 30$

Reaction papers: $25 + 25 + 25 + 25 + 25 + 25 = 150$

Quizzes: $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 20$

Then your total number of points would equal 200 points or 100%. Your course grade would then equal 200/50 or 4.00

In percentage:

Grade Percent

A+ = 97-100

A = 93-96

A- = 90-92

Grade Percent

C+ = 77-79

C = 73-76

C- = 70-72

B+ = 87-89
 B = 83-86
 B- = 80-82

D+ = 67-69
 D = 63-66
 D- = 60-62
 F = < 59

Week 1

Day/Date	Reading
Tue, July 5, 2011	Class introduction
Wed, July 6, 2011	Davis, Kingsley and Wilbert E. Moore. 2008. "Some Principles of Stratification." Pp. 30-32 in Grusky.
Thu, July 7, 2011	Crompton, Rosemary. 1993. "Explaining Inequality" (Ch. 1). Pp. 1-20 in Crompton, Rosemary (Part 1).
Fri, July 8, 2011	Crompton, Rosemary. 1993. "Explaining Inequality" (Ch. 1). Pp. 1-20 in Crompton, Rosemary (Part 2).

Week 2

Day/Date	Reading
Mon, July 11, 2011	Grusky, David B. and Manwai C. Ku. 2008. "Gloom, Doom, and Inequality". Pp. 2-29 in Grusky.
Tue, July 12, 2011	Lareau, Annette, and Dalton Conley (Eds.). 2008. <i>Social Class: How Does It Work?</i> New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Pp. 3-64 (Part 1).
Wed, July 13, 2011	Lareau, Annette, and Dalton Conley (Eds.). 2008. <i>Social Class: How Does It Work?</i> New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Pp. 3-64 (Part 2).
Thu, July 14, 2011	Fishers, Claudia S. <i>et al.</i> 2008. "Inequality by Design." Pp. 49-52 in Grusky.
Fri, July 15, 2011	Morris, Martina and Bruce Western. 2008. "Inequality in Earnings: Trends and Implications." Pp. 61-66 in Grusky.

Week 3

Day/Date	Reading
Mon, July 18, 2011	Marx, Karl. 2008. "Alienation and Social Classes." Pp. 74-78 in Grusky.
Tue, July 19, 2011	Marx, Karl. 2008. "Classes in Capitalism and Pre-capitalism." Pp. 79-88 in Grusky.
Wed, July 20, 2011	Marx, Karl. 2008. "Ideology and Class." Pp. 89-90 in Grusky.
Thu, July 21, 2011	Weber, Max. 2008. "Class, Status, Party." Pp. 114-123 in Grusky (Part 1).
Fri, July 22, 2011	Weber, Max. 2008. "Class, Status, Party." Pp. 114-123 in Grusky (Part 2).

Week 4:

Day/Date	Reading
Mon, July 25, 2011	Weber, Max. 2008. "Status Groups and Classes." Pp.124-127 in Grusky.
Tue, July 26, 2011	Weber, Max. 2008. "Open and Closed Relationships." Pp. 128-131 in Grusky.
Wed, July 27, 2011	Durkheim, Emile. 2008. "The Division of Labor in Society." Pp. 159-164 in Grusky.
Thu, July 28, 2011	Mills, C. Wright. 2008. "The Power Elite." Pp. 275-284 in Grusky.
Fri, July 29, 2011	Domhoff, G. William. 2008. "Who Rules America? Power and Politics." Pp. 290-294 in Grusky.

Week 5

Day/Date	Reading
Mon, August 1, 2011	Brooks, David. 2008. "Bobos in Paradise: the New Upper Class and How They Got There." Pp. 304-310 in Grusky.
Tue, August 2, 2011	Wilson, W. Julius. 2008. "The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions." Pp. 691-702 in Grusky.
Wed, August 3, 2011	Bielby, William T. 2008. "The Structure and Process of Sex Segregation." Pp. 786-796 in Grusky.
Thu, August 4, 2011	Bourdieu, Pierre. 2008. "Distinction: a Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste." Pp. 870-892 in Grusky (Part 1).
Fri, August 5, 2011	Bourdieu, Pierre. 2008. "Distinction: a Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste." Pp. 870-892 in Grusky (Part 2).

Week 6

Day/Date	Reading
Mon, August 8, 2011	Mullahy, John, Stephanie Robert, and Barbara Wolfe. 2008. "Health, Income, and Inequality." Pp. 904-915 in Grusky.
Tue, August 9, 2011	Chan, Tak Wing and John H. Goldthorpe. 2008. "The Social Stratification of Theatre, Dance, and Cinema Attendance." Pp. 916-925 in Grusky.
Wed, August 10, 2011	Hout, Michael and Benjamin Moodie. 2008. "The Realignment of U.S. Presidential Voting, 1948-2004." Pp. 945-953.
Thu, August 11, 2011	Giddens, Anthony. 2008. "Social Justice and Social Divisions." Pp. 1006-1015 in Grusky.
Fri, August 12, 2011	Final Review