SOC 754 SEMINAR IN SOCIAL STRATIFICATION
Department of Sociology - University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nandita Sharma
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 3:00 to 4:00 PM (or by appointment)
CLASS: Thursday 9:00 to 11:30 AM
ROOM: KUY 401

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The study of social stratification is, at its core, the study of social divisions and inequalities. In this course, we will examine the historical, material and social processes that have created enormous discrepancies in people’s lived experience and their access and enjoyment of life’s resources. In particular, we will look at socially organized “differences” of gender, “race,” “nation” and class and explore their relationship to processes of exploitation, oppression and subjugation. Along with an examination of the structural processes that organize such hierarchies, we will explore the cultural bases for the legitimacy attached to the differential values attached to some people, practices and ways of life along with people’s resistance to the imposition of hierarchies of worth. We will also push the boundaries of the sociology of social stratification by extending our investigation to the divisions and inequalities formed between humans and the rest of life on the planet.

REQUIRED READINGS: (Available at the University of Hawai‘i Bookstore)


Course Requirements and Grading:
Participation 10%
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<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Presentation on Readings</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Summaries (five: 5% each)</td>
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<td>Research Essay Outline</td>
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