



## **SOCIOLOGY 311.01W Introduction to Sociology COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015**

**Instructor:** Katelyn Ginn, MS

**Class Times:** Online

**Class Location:** Online

**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Science Building 206

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5323

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### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*Textbook(s) Required:* Hurst, Charles. (2013). *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson.

Any additional readings will be provided for you.

#### **Course Description:**

The relations among social classes are examined as systems of privilege with inequalities of wealth, power, and prestige among individuals and groups. Forces giving rise to social classes, how one's position in a class system affects behavior and personality, class conflict, and the impact of other social institutions, especially the economic and political, are studied.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will examine the basic sociological concepts and perspectives on social inequality and stratification.
2. Students will understand the major sociological explanations for social inequality, both within the United States and globally.

3. Students will recognize what practices and institutions shape these diverse social groupings.
4. Students will compare and contrast the popular public perception of inequality with an academic and intellectual analysis of inequality.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

#### **Exams:**

There will be FOUR exams during the course of the semester. They will be a mixture of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, true/false questions, and essay questions. Exams will be given online and each will be worth 100 points. All exams include an extra credit opportunity. Exams will be on a set schedule, and while it is highly unlikely that the dates of the exams will change, please check your email regularly if that occasion arises. Exams will open on the Thursday of that week and will close on the next day (Friday) at midnight. Once you enter the exam, you will have one hour and thirty minutes to complete it. If for any reason you have any problems entering exams or anything of that nature, please send me an email immediately so that I can help you.

#### **Make up Exams:**

If you miss ONE exam, contact me and I will allow you to complete a make-up assignment to replace that grade. I will only allow this for ONE exam and you must contact me; I will not contact you. This will be an essay assignment and if this occasion arises, email me and we will work out stipulations. Any further missed exams will receive a grade of 0.

#### **Discussions:**

There will be a total of TWELVE online discussions this semester, but you are only required to participate in TEN. These discussions will be worth 10 points each, totaling 100 points. If you choose to participate in all twelve discussions, I will take add your extra points into your total of points as extra credit. I will pose questions concerning the topics we cover that week and you will be required to post one response to it. Then, I would like to respond to the posts of your classmates. There is no set number of responses I am asking for; rather, I expect you to create a dialogue. On discussion weeks, post early and check the discussion throughout the week to see if anyone has responded to you or posed new questions. Feel free to respond to another student's post. When grading discussions, these are the things I will be considering: relevancy to the topic, thorough answering of the questions, active discussion, quality of writing, etc.

## Extra Credit:

You have the opportunity to earn extra credit by participating in more than the required ten discussions. There are ample opportunities for you to earn your points from exams, papers, and discussions, so this will be the ONLY form of extra credit I will allow. There will be no other opportunities to do extra work for more points, so don't ask. If you take your tests and assignments seriously, then you won't need it anyway.

## Grading:

Item:	Points Possible:
Exams (4, worth 100 points each)	400
Discussions (10, worth 10 points each)	100
Total:	500

## Calculating Your Grade:

Letter grade:	Percentage:	Points needed:
A	90-100%	450-500
B	80-89%	400-449
C	70-79%	350-399
D	60-69%	300-349
F	<60%	<300

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is primarily an online course. Course handouts, instruction, assignments, powerpoint lectures, and study guides will be posted on ecollege. In order to access ecollege, students will need the following:

- Internet Connections-high speed recommended
- Word processor (Microsoft Word 2003 and newer)

All students should have access to email, as periodic announcements and reminders will be made using this format.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Ecollege technical concerns: Please contact the ecollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may

also reach the HelpDesk by calling (866) 656-5511, or through online chat by clicking on the “Live Support” tab within your ecollege course.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Interaction with Instructor:**

The most effective way to communicate with me is email. I do not hold posted office hours, but if you have an issue that must be addressed in person, email me to make an appointment. I check my email often, so please don't hesitate. I will typically respond within 24 hours of your email during the week and the next Monday on weekends.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Academic Honesty:**

Cheating and Plagiarism: Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Plagiarism (the use of other's words, phrases, and ideas in your own writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but it is against the law.

Any student found to be in violation of University rules will receive an “F” on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. This office may choose to pursue further disciplinary action through the University.

### **Grades of Incomplete:**

I do not assign grades of incomplete. Your grade will be assigned based on the points you have earned from all completed work at that time. It is your responsibility to finish assignments prior to their due dates or to make alternate arrangements for their completion. Do not assume that I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences. I will not drop any student from this course. If you feel this course is not for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from the class. Simply not attending in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not happen. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either class or not coming to class.

### **Extra Credit and Curving:**

From this syllabus it is very clear as to the number of assignments and the possible points to be attained in the course. You begin earning points on day one. Do not rely on friends' notes or on the professor to explain what the reading are about. It is your responsibility to read, listen, and comprehend the material. If you do not understand a concept or issue, please ask me to clarify, or stay after class for further elaboration.

I will not curve the grades of a class to conform to an artificial bell curve, so requests to do so will fall on deaf ears. I will assist the class by means of lectures, discussions, study guides, and reviews, but I do not manipulate your test score, drop a test score, or inflate your test score so that it will be more to your liking. An improvement of grades will come from your studying efforts and not from your instructor's generous grading, so please do not expect or ask for more, or extra credit points in the course.

### **Decorum:**

This course will be very easy-going, and I expect you to work independently, reading your text and staying up to date with the course schedule. Of course, if you have any questions, concerns, or need me to clarify something, do not hesitate to email me. Since we will be interacting with one another by online discussions, there are certain decorum standards I expect. Treat each other respectfully and take the questions I have posed seriously. If anyone attacks another student, is rude or disrespectful, or becomes profane, I will address it personally. I will not tolerate this. Please also refrain from using "text-speak," (examples include "lol," "U," "UR," etc.) Write in complete sentences and use proper grammar and syntax.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### *ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**This tentative schedule is subject to change.** Prior advance notice will be given via email. You are expected to read the relevant chapters with the corresponding week.

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	01/20-01/25	Chapter 1: An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 1</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 1</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Tuesday 01/20/2015 and closes Friday 01/23/2015)</li> </ul>
2	01/26-02/01	Chapter 2: Class, Income, and Wealth and Chapter 3: Poverty and Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapters 2 and 3</li> <li>• Review lectures for chapters 2 and 3</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 01/26/2015 and closes Friday 02/30/2015)</li> </ul>
3	02/02-02/08	Chapter 4: Status Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapters 4</li> <li>• Review lecture for chapter 4</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 02/02/2015 and closes Friday 02/06/2015)</li> </ul>
4	02/09-02/15	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Exam will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4</b>
5	02/16-02/22	Chapter 6: Sex and Gender Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 6</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 6</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 02/16/2015 and closes Friday 02/20/2015)</li> </ul>
6	02/23-03/01	Chapter 7: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 7</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 7</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 02/23/2015 and closes Friday 02/27/2015)</li> </ul>
7	03/02-03/08	Chapter 8: Racial and Ethnic Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 8</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 8</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 03/02/2015 and closes Friday 03/06/2015)</li> </ul>
8	03/09-03/15	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Exam will cover chapters 6, 7, and 8</b>
Spring Break	03/16-03/20		
9	03/23-03/29	Chapter 9: Classical Explanations of Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 9</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 9</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 03/23/2015 and closes Friday 03/27/2015)</li> </ul>

10	03/30-04/05	Chapter 10: Contemporary Explanations of Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 10</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 10</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 03/30/2015 and closes Friday 04/24/2015)</li> </ul>
11	04/06-04/12	Chapter 11: The Impact of Inequality on Personal Life Chances and Chapter 12: Social Consequences of Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapters 11 and 12,</li> <li>• View the lectures for chapters 11 and 12</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 04/06/2015 and closes Friday 04/10/2015)</li> </ul>
12	04/13-04/19	Exam 3	Exam will cover Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12
13	04/20-04/26	Chapter 13: Social Inequality and Social Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 13</li> <li>• View the lecture for Chapter 13</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 04/20/2015 and closes Friday 04/24/2015)</li> </ul>
14	04/27-05/03	Chapter 14 Social Mobility and Status Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 14</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 14</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 04/27/2015 and closes Friday 05/01/2015)</li> </ul>
15	05/04-05/10	Chapter 15: Justice and Legitimacy: Assessments of the Structure of Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read chapter 15</li> <li>• View the lecture for chapter 15</li> <li>• Participate in Discussion (opens Monday 05/04/2015 and closes Friday 05/08/2015)</li> </ul>
Finals Week	05/11-05/15	Final Exam	Exam will cover chapters 14 and 15