

SOC3201 (Fall 2016)
INEQUALITY: An Introduction to Social Stratification
TTH from 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm, Blegen Hall 130

Instructor: Professor Yanjie Bian

Room 967, Social Science Building; Tel: 624-9554; Email: bianx001@umn.edu

Office hours: TTh 2:15-3:45 pm, or by appointment

Course description:

This course examines the basic concepts and theories sociologists use to describe and explain social stratification and inequality. The textbook for the class is *Social Stratification and Inequality*. Lectures will focus on the contents of selected chapters that all students are required to read. There are twelve short, in-class quizzes (50% of final grade), and each of which has five simple questions about the contents of the chapter lectured in the week prior to the quiz. Ten best of the quizzes are recorded, or students may miss any two quizzes. For a term-paper study project (50% of the final grade), each student is required to conduct interviews of two families about their relative standings in the American stratification system. For this term project, students are requested to submit (1) a study outline of 1-2 pages (5% of final grade), which describes the plan of the study about which families to be studied, how to conduct the interviews/observations, and what to be focused in these interviews/observations; and (2) the term paper (8-10 pages, 45% of final grade), which reports and analyzes the results of interviews/observations. NO final exam.

Text: (available from the UMN bookstore)

Kerbo, Harold R., 2012. *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative, and Global Perspective* (Eighth edition). New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Lecture notes: Available from the course website for Soc3201

Some specific expectations:

1. Students are expected to come to class on time; class attendance counts for 5% of final grade. Quiz is given at the beginning of Tuesday class and no make-up is arranged.
2. Study outline and term paper must be due on time. Late submissions are not accepted.
3. All students are expected to read the chapters prior to the lectures.

Grading:

1. Class attendance, 5% of final grade.
2. Best ten out of the 12 quizzes, 50% of final grade.
2. Study outline of 1-2 double-space pages, 5% of final grade.
3. Term paper of 8-10 double-space pages, 40% of final grade.

Letter grade on a 100-point scale:

100-95=A; 94-90 =A-; 89-86=B+; 85-83=B; 82-80=B-; 79-76=C+; 75-73=C;
72-70=C-; 69-65=D+; 64-60=D; <60=F; Passing grade: C-
(Averages involving 0.50 point will be rounded up to the nearest integer).

Term Paper

For this term paper, each student is requested to conduct observations or in-depth interviews with two families about their relative social stratification standings in society. One family can be the student's own family, and the other can any family for which an interview or observation can be conducted. This project is completed in two steps:

Step 1: Study outline of up to 2 double-space pages, due on Nov 12, 5% of grade

Provide a description of which families to study, what to focus in your study

Step 2: Term paper of up to 8-10 double-space pages, due on Dec 17, 40% of grade

The term paper must have (1) a title, (2) description of the status-quo and relative social stratification standings of the two families studied, (3) an analysis and comparison of the two families with a focused issue studied, and a substantive conclusion of the study report.

An excellent term paper has a clear writing style, a good use of research literature or references obtained from the class and beyond, and a sociological analysis of a focused issue through the study of the two families.

Tentative Schedule (Dates are to be changed; these dates are for fall 2015 offering)

T 9/8 Th 9/10	Introduction to the course, Chapter 1: Perspectives and concepts Chapter 1: Perspectives and concepts
T 9/15 Th 9/17	1st quiz on chapter 1 ; Chapter 2: Dimensions of inequality Chapter 2: continued
T 9/22 Th 9/24	2nd quiz on chapter 2 ; Chapter 3: History of inequality Chapter 3: continued
T 9/29 Th 10/1	3rd quiz on chapter 3 ; Chapter 4: Early theories of social stratification Chapter 4: continued
T 10/6 Th 10/8	4th quiz on chapter 4 ; Chapter 5: Modern theories of social stratification Chapter 5: continued
T 10/13 Th 10/15	5th quiz on chapter 5 ; Chapter 6: Upper class Chapter 6: continued
T 10/20 Th 10/22	6th quiz on chapter 6 ; Chapter 7: Corporate class Chapter 7: continued
T 10/27 Th 10/29	7th quiz on chapter 7 ; Chapter 8: Middle and working classes Chapter 8: continued
T 11/3 Th 11/5	8th quiz on chapter 8 ; Chapter 9: Poverty and welfare state Chapter 9: continued
T 11/10 Th 11/12	9th quiz on chapter 9 ; Chapter 10: Gender inequalities Chapter 10: continued, <u>Study outline due</u>
T 11/17 Th 11/19	10th quiz on chapter 10 , Chapter 11: Race and ethnic inequalities Chapter 11: continued, 11th quiz on chapter 11
T 11/24 Th 11/26	Self Study for the Term Paper, No Class Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class
T 12/1 Th 12/3	Chapter 12: Social mobility Chapter 12: continued, 12th quiz on chapter 12 ;
T 12/8 Th 12/10	Chapter 13: The process of legitimation Chapter 13: continued
T 12/15	Student's presentation of term paper
<u>Th 12/17</u>	<u>Term paper due (bianx001@umn.edu)</u>

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICY

GRADES: University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/4xxx) is indicated on the registration website; changes in grade scale may not be made after the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in courses required for the major/minor. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

- A Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 points)
- A- 3.67 grade points
- B+ 3.33 grade points
- B Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements (3.00 grade points)
- B- 2.67 grade points
- C+ 2.33 grade points
- C Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
- C- 1.67 grade points
- D+ 1.33 grade points
- D Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
- F Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
- N No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
- I Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a "reasonable expectation" that you 1) can successfully complete unfinished work on your own no later than one year from the last day of classes and 2) believes that legitimate reasons exist to justify extending the deadline for course completion. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work. If a course is not completed as prescribed or not made up as agreed within the year, the I will lapse to an F if registered on the A-F grade base or an N if registered on the S-N grade base.
- W Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester. You must file a course cancellation request before the end of the sixth week of the semester to ensure that the W, rather than the F, will be formerly entered on your record.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS (see schedule at <http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/Calendars/FinalExams.html>): You are required to take final examinations at the scheduled times. Under certain circumstances, however, you may request final examination schedule adjustment in your college office. Instructors are obligated to schedule make-up examinations within the final examination period for students who have three final examinations within a 16-hour period. Instructors also are encouraged to reschedule examinations for students with religious objections to taking an examination on a given day. You must submit your request for an adjustment in your schedule at least two weeks before the examination period begins. For assistance in resolving conflicts, call the CLA Student Information Office at 625-2020. If you miss a final, an F or N is recorded. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the examination. Final examinations may be rescheduled by the instructor only through the official procedure for that purpose (as noted on the above web page). Final examinations may not be scheduled for the last day of class or earlier or for Study Day. If an examination is rescheduled at the instructor's request, and you have an examination conflict because of it, you are entitled to be given the final examination at an alternative time within the regularly scheduled examination period for that semester.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: As a CLA student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up of work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (<http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/>).

COURSE PERFORMANCE AND GRADING: Instructors establish ground rules for their courses in conformity with their department policies and are expected to explain them at the first course meeting. This includes announcement of office hours and location, the kind of help to be expected from the instructor and teaching assistants, and tutorial services, if available. The instructor also describes the general nature of the course, the work expected, dates for examinations and paper submissions, and expectations for classroom participation and attendance. Instructors determine the standards for grading and will describe expectations, methods of evaluation, and factors that enter into grade determination. The special conditions under which an incomplete (I) might be awarded also should be established. The college does not permit you to submit extra work to raise your grade unless all students in the class are afforded the same opportunity.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave (the policies regarding student conduct are outlined in the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook on-line at <http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/>).

SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT: The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the description above. It could also be said that scholastic dishonesty is any act that violates the rights of another student with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentation of a student's own work. Also included would be cheating on assignments or examinations, inventing or falsifying research or other findings with the intent to deceive,

submitting the same or substantially similar papers (or creative work) for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of necessary course materials, and sabotaging another's work. Should misconduct arise, the college's Scholastic Conduct Committee in cooperation with the Office of Student Academic Integrity/Student Judicial Affairs (OSAI/SJA) assists instructors in resolving cases, reviews cases in which students believe themselves unfairly treated, and checks for multiple offenses in different courses. Faculty members who suspect students of scholastic misconduct must report the matter to OSAI/SJA. **Students cannot evade (intentionally or unintentionally) a grade sanction by withdrawing from a course before or after the misconduct charge is reported. This also applies to late withdrawals, including discretionary late cancellation (also known as the "one-time-only drop").**

A REMINDER OF RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
*** SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES ***

GRADE INFORMATION: Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 3 business days after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through their computer account. They may do this by following the directions on the One Stop web site at <http://onestop.umn.edu/>.

INCOMPLETES: It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor as early as possible if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that if completion of the work requires the student to attend class in substantial part a second time, assigning an "I" grade is NOT appropriate. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS: Arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements. Circumstances for missing an exam include, but are not necessarily limited to: verified illness, participation in athletic events or other group activities sponsored by the University, serious family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to notify faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible.

GRADE CHANGES: Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor and/or teaching assistant.

Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked. See the departmental advisor in 923 Social Sciences to explore options.

DISABILITY SERVICES: Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. For more info contact Disability Resource Center in 180 McNamara.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined in the December 1998 policy statement, available at the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action. Questions or concerns about sexual harassment should be directed to this office in 419 Morrill Hall.

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS INFORMATION: The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. We also have an Honors Program. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should view the online-information session about the major. Further information can be obtained from the following persons and offices or online at <http://www.soc.umn.edu/undergrad/>

General information, Sociology Department, 909 Social Sciences - 624-4300

Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Bobby Bryant, 923 Social Sciences – 624-4300

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Kathy Hull, 1131 Social Sciences - 624-4339

Sociology Honors Advisor, Professor Joachim Savelsberg, 1144 Social Sciences - 624-0273

Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Ann Meier, 1074 Social Sciences – 624-9828 and/or

Graduate Program Associate, Becky Drasin, 927 Social Sciences - 624-2093

Undergraduate jobs, internships, volunteer and research opportunities, scholarships, and much more can be found in the Undergraduate Resources site - <http://z.umn.edu/socugrad>