

Tentative Syllabus: SOC3201 (Fall 2019)
INEQUALITY: An Introduction to Social Stratification
9/3-12/11 TuTh 11:15 am - 12:30 pm, Blegen Hall 250

Instructor: Professor Yanjie Bian

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

Office hours: TTh 12:45-2:15 pm, or through email/by appointment

Teaching Assistant: To be given

Contact information: to be given

Office hours: to be given

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* (8th edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-811165-5.

Lecture notes: Available from the Canvas for Soc3201

Some specific expectations:

1. Come to the class on time and read the assigned chapters prior to the lectures.
2. Quiz is given at the beginning of class (Tue or Thu) and no make-up is arranged.
3. Study outline and term paper must be due on time. Late submissions are not accepted.

Grading:

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

Letter grade on a 100-point scale:

100-93=A; 92-90 =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 be any family for which an interview or observation can be conducted. This project is completed in three steps:

Step 1: Study outline of 2 double-space pages, due **Nov 07 midnight** to Canvas, 5% of grade. Provide a description of which families to study, what to focus in your study.

Step 2: Oral presentation of the term paper or term-paper outline in class, **Dec 05**, for collecting feedbacks from fellow students in order to strengthen the term paper.

Step 3: Term paper of 10 double-space pages, due **Dec 10 midnight** to Canvas, 40% of grade

The written form of 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 (4) 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

Tu 9/03 Th 9/05	Introduction to the course, Chapter 1: Perspectives and concepts Chapter 1: Perspectives and concepts
Tu 9/10 Th 9/12	1st quiz on chapter 1 ; Chapter 2: Dimensions of inequality Chapter 2: continued
Tu 9/17 Th 9/19	2nd quiz on chapter 2 ; Chapter 3: History of inequality Chapter 3: continued
Tu 9/24 Th 9/26	3rd quiz on chapter 3 ; Chapter 4: Early theories of social stratification Chapter 4: continued
Tu 10/01 Th 10/03	4th quiz on chapter 4 ; Chapter 5: Modern theories of social stratification Chapter 5: continued
Tu 10/08 Th 10/10	5th quiz on chapter 5 ; Chapter 6: Upper class Chapter 6: continued
Tu 10/15 Th 10/17	6th quiz on chapter 6 ; Chapter 7: Corporate class Chapter 7: continued
Tu 10/22 Th 10/24	7th quiz on chapter 7 ; Chapter 8: Middle and working classes Chapter 8: continued
Tu 10/29 Th 10/31	8th quiz on chapter 8 ; Chapter 9: Poverty and welfare state Chapter 9: continued
Tu 11/05 Th 11/07	9th quiz on chapter 9 ; Chapter 10: Gender inequalities Chapter 10: continued, <u>Study outline due 23:59 pm to the course Canvas</u>
Tu 11/12 Th 11/14	10th quiz on chapter 10 ; Chapter 11: Race and ethnic inequalities Chapter 11: continued
Tu 11/19 Th 11/21	11th quiz on chapter 11 ; Chapter 12: Social mobility Chapter 12: continued; 12th quiz on chapter 12
Tu 11/26 Th 11/28	Self Study for the Term Paper, No Class Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class
Tu 12/03 Th 12/05	Chapters 13-14: The process of legitimation and the world stratification system Student's presentation of term paper/term paper outline
Tu 12/10	<u>Term paper due 23:59 pm to the course Canvas</u>