

SOCIAL INEQUALITY, SOCIOLOGY 207

Room: 180 PLC
Time: 12-1:20 TR
Office: 441g McKenzie
WINTER 2009

Instructor: Chuck Hunt
Office Hours: 2p.m.-3p.m. Tuesday
12-1 p.m. Monday; by appointment
Contact Info: 346-5779
cwhunt@oregon.uoregon.edu

I. Course Content and Structure

Each Natural and Social Science has its own core concepts and strengths. For Sociology the core is social inequality and stratification, the topic of this course. We will begin the quarter with a discussion about whether “there has always been inequality and it’s just a part of human nature.” This discussion will look at the nature of Paleolithic and Neolithic societies. We will derive some conclusions concerning the nature of humans and human society. This may allow some discussions upon the origins of inequality.

From a discussion of origins of inequality, we will move to the concept of Race. We will discuss its biological validity and its historic origins and purposes. Following this we will look at the meaning and validity of class stratification in U.S. society. We will consider gender stratification next. This central five weeks of the course will lay the foundation for an understanding of the consequences of these three types of stratification in U.S. society. In the eighth week of the class we will look beyond the U.S. to see how stratification appears on a global scale and, finally, we will look to the future, both within the U.S. and globally, in order to understand where we are likely to be headed with stratification in your lifetime.

These sections will be accompanied by readings, lectures in the large classroom, films for the class, and special assignments and tasks in the discussion sections.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodation in order to meet the requirements of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

II. Required Texts

1. Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences. Sixth edition. Charles E. Hurst. Pearson. 2007. (Referred to below as Hurst)
2. The Wealth Inequality Reader. Dollars and Sense. 2008. (Referred to below as Reader)

III. Course Evaluation

1. Students are expected to attend lectures acquainted with the materials assigned for the week.
2. First Midterm (Thursday, January 22, 2009) The first midterm will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions. Students should bring a suitable pencil and a scantron. The exam will include all discussion sections, materials, readings, and lectures up to and including material from January 20. THERE WILL BE NO ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR, OR PRESENTATION OF, THIS EXAMINATION.
3. Second Midterm (Thursday, February 12, 2009) The second mid term will consist of 50 multiple choice questions similar in structure and question style to the first exam. The exam will include material, readings, lectures, films, and discussion sections until and including February 10. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATION PROVIDED FOR THIS EXAM.
4. Third midterm examination (Thursday, February 12, 2009). The mid midterm will consist of 50 multiple choice questions similar in structure and question style to the first two exams. This exam will include material, readings, films, lectures, and discussion sections until and including February 9. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATION PROVIDED FOR THIS EXAM.
5. Students may miss one of the above exams and the final grade will be calculated from the other two examinations taken. As an alternative, the instructor will drop the lowest grade of the three above examinations if the student has taken all three. The total weight for the two midterms for the final grade will be 60%.
6. Final Examination: (Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 8 a.m.) The final examination will consist of an exam similar in structure and question style to the first, second and third midterms. It will consist of 100 questions and will require two hours. This examination will be comprehensive and cover all the material presented in the class. The final examination will make up 40% of the final grade. THERE WILL BE NO ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR, OR PRESENTATION OF, THIS EXAMINATION.
7. Students are encouraged to attend their discussion sections. Students who attend at least 7 of the 10 discussion sections and meet the requirements of their discussion section GTF will receive an extra 5 points on their final grade average.

IV. Course Readings and Schedule

Week 1: January 6-8: Introduction and Basic Concepts: Course structure, content and requirements; Paleolithic and Neolithic human society and the origins of inequality; differentiation and stratification.

Readings: Hurst, pp. 1-13, 189-207; Chapters 1 and 8; Reader, pp. 30-43.

Week 2: January 13-15: Race and Racial Concepts: Biology and race; race as ideology.

Readings: Hurst, pp. 153-188, Chapter 7; Reader, pp. 153-162.

Movie: Race: The Power of an Illusion

Week 3: January 20-22: Race and Racial Concepts: Biology and race.

Readings: Reader, pp. 44-51.

FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION: THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Week 4: January 27-29: Class: definitions of class and its meaning. Class in the U.S.

Readings: Hurst, pp. 15-70, Chapters 2 and 3; Reader, pp. 64-66, 1-27, 126-136.

Film: Born Rich

Week 5: February 3-5: Class: How class reproduces itself.

Readings: Hurst, pp. 71-93, Chapter 4; Reader, pp. 92-99, 143-148, 171-179.

Film: "On The Edge"

Week 6: February 10-12: Gender: Social creation and gender structures. Contemporary debates and directions.

Readings: Hurst, pp. 94-152, Chapters 5 and 6; Reader, pp. 67-73.

SECOND MIDTERM EXAMINATION: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

Week 7: February 17-19 : Consequence of Stratification and Inequality

Readings: Hurst, pp. 243-294, Chapters 10 and 11.

Film: Tough Guise

Week 8: February 24-26: Comparative and International Stratification and Inequality

Readings: Hurst, pp. 331-353, Chapter 13; Reader, pp. 100-106, 112-124, 166-170.

Film: The Hidden Face of Globalization, The Corporation

Week 9: March 3-5: Slavery and International Stratification.

THIRD MIDTERM EXAMINATION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

Week 10: March 10-12: Course Wrap-up and Conclusions.

Readings: Reader, pp. 182-248.

FINAL EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008 AT 8 A.M. (0800 HRS).

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Recently, it has come to my attention that academic dishonesty has become quite widespread and commonly practiced on U.S. and Canadian University campuses. Please be aware that academic dishonesty is not acceptable in this class. If you have any doubt about what constitutes academic honesty and academic dishonesty, please discuss these issues with your instructor or GTF. It will be assumed, in this classroom, that you are aware of the fundamental requirements of academic honesty and deviation from the requirements of academic honesty and the practice of academic dishonesty will result in failure in this class and dismissal from the classroom.