



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

SOC 210 Social Stratification and Inequality

Term: May 27 – June 27, 2019

Instructor: DR. HUNG CAM THAI (Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley)

Home Institution: Pomona College

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 TO 2 pm.

Discussion session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This course deals with economic and social inequality in the United States with some cross-national comparisons. We highlight how labor market changes in the latter part of the 20th century have widened income inequalities and, more importantly, produced unequal access to major resources across many sectors of the United States. We start by exploring key principles that guide American economic and social activities, such as the meritocratic system, the American Dream discourse, and the winner-take-all market paradigm. The latter part of the course focuses on the impact of inequality on Americans who are part of the non-working poor, the working poor, the near-poor, and the “expulsion class”—a total of about **45 percent** of all Americans. This course goes beyond the rhetoric of “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer” to look in-depth into the causes and consequences of inequality and how generational transmission of poverty and wealth occur in our society. We mainly cover poverty in the United States for the obvious reason: there is simply enough impoverishment in the country to warrant an isolated discussion of it.

Specific objectives of the course:

1. Describe and synthesize concepts, principles, and theories used to study inequality and stratification.
2. Analyze and discuss contemporary poverty issues, trends, and information.
3. Communicate the above effectively, both orally and in writing.

No Prerequisite

Required Textbook:

This course uses one prominent textbook that introduces the study of inequality. We will only read selected chapters from the textbook. Your mastery of materials will be supplemented by

the lectures in class. Each week, we will read several chapters that speak to some common thread or theme. The readings supplement the lectures; you are expected to engage with both the lectures and readings accordingly on your exams. Please purchase the e-version of this textbook:

Social Inequality and Social Stratification in U.S. Society. 1st Edition. By Christopher B. Doob. Routledge Publisher.

ISBN-13: 978-0205792412

ISBN-10: 9780205792412

*****Please note that both of these ISBN numbers correspond to the same book*****

Grading Policy:

UIBE awards grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, and F. Most colleges and universities do not award transfer credit for grades of D or F.

In this course, grading will be based on the following:

- 10% attendance and participation
 - 60% Two Midterms
 - 30% Final
- *Total: 100%

- A. Students are required to attend and participate in discussions.
- B. You will gain writing skills through periodic in-class writing assignments, which will measure your mastery of the readings and comprehension of the lectures, and which will be the basis for our classroom discussions.
- C. No make-up exams will be given, unless you have a medical documentation.

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Class Rules:

General courtesy and no use of iphone and electronic devices during class lectures.

General expectations:

Students are expected to:

- *Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade.*
- *Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class*
- *Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading*
- *Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class (不要用手机)*
- *Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time*

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Specifically, unless otherwise directed by the professor, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source, on examinations. Failure to abide by this may result in a zero on the examination, or even failure in the course.

Students are also expected to adhere to appropriate scholarly conventions in essays and research papers. This class includes writing assignment(s) in which students must give credit to all outside sources used by means of citations and a bibliography. Failure to do so may result in a zero on the paper assignment, or even failure in the course.

Attendance Policy:

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any unexcused absence may affect the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has more than 1/3 of the class in unexcused absences will fail the course.

Course Hours:

The course has 20 class sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length for a total of 2,400 minutes of class time. The course meets from Monday to Thursday.

Course Schedule

Day 1	The Winner-Take-All Market
Day 2	Chapter 1, The Road to Social Inequality
Day 3	Theories of Inequality and Stratification
Day 4	Chapter 2, The Origin of Wealth Accumulation
Day 5	In-Class Writing Assignment Assessment
Day 6	Chapter 3, From Middle Class to Working Poor
Day 7	Chapter 4, The Rise of Impoverishment
Day 8	Exam #1
Day 9	Chapter 5, The Persistence of Race & Inequality
Day 10	Intersectionality as a Theory of Inequality
Day 11	Chapter 6, Government Provisions
Day 12	Mid-Semester Review of Materials
Day 13	Chapter 7, From Welfare Reliant to Work Reliant
Day 14	Schooling as a Pathway to Equality
Day 15	Chapter 8, Cross National Comparisons of Inequality
Day 16	Exam #2
Day 17	Chapter 9, Labor Market Segmentations
Day 18	Chapter 10, From Servitude and the Expulsion Class
Day 19	Review for Final Examinations
Day 20	Final Examinations