

University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

SOC 210 Social Stratification and Inequality

Term: September 20th – December 10th, 2021

Instructor: Professor Li Zhang

Home Institution: China University of Political Science and Law

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Class Hours: 2 days per week, 120 minutes each teaching day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion session: 2 hours each week

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

Location: WEB

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This course focuses on questions and issues of differences and social inequality in the United States. We will examine the many facets of social stratification in American society, including categories of differences based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, among others. Looking at these categories of differences, we then explore how social inequality results from the ways in which people are born with such differences as well as how they “acquire” such differences in life, such as class status, religious and political affiliation, and gender identities. Overall, we use a multidisciplinary approach in order to focus on both theoretical and empirical topics that produce differentiation and inequality to understand the causes and consequences of inequality. We end the course with the theme of social justice to think about how citizens can participate in civic life in ways that could reduce inequality in American life.

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

Grading Policy:

IBE 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:

- 60% Exams (2@ each 30%)

- 40% Final Paper

*Total: 100%

Please note that all the exams are essay formats, with a minimum writing word length of approximately 1200 words per exam, for a total of 2400 words.

You will gain writing skills through periodic writing assignments, which will measure your mastery of the readings and comprehension of the lectures, and which will be the basis for our discussions.

Writing assignments will be distributed two times throughout the session and students will be required to submit a paper for each of the two essays.

For your final paper, you can pick any topic of your choice that will be covered this semester. Write a term paper which provides a small overview of how Social Stratification and Inequality (mainly) has explored or approached the phenomenon. Make sure to explain the basic issue/phenomena, concepts, the different dimensions of the issue that are interesting to sociology and any other information that you think is necessary to explain what we know and what we still need to know about the issue/phenomena. The minimum writing word length of approximately 1500 words.

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:

Students are expected to:

- 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
- 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.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	Course Introduction and Chapter 1, The Road to Social Inequality
	Chapter 2, Theories of Difference, Inequality and Stratification (I)
Week 2	Chapter 2, Theories of Difference, Inequality and Stratification (II)
	Chapter 3, Social Stratification in Global settings
Week 3	Holiday
Week 4	Film 1
	Review (Exam #1 submitted today)
Week 5	Chapter 4, Poverty and the Origin of Wealth Accumulation and Income Differences
	Chapter 5, The Persistence of Racial Inequality
Week 6	Chapter 6, Stratification by Class
	Chapter 7, Stratification by Age
Week 7	Chapter 8, Social Stratification by Gender
	Film 2
Week 8	Review (Exam #2 submitted today)
	Chapter 9, Residential Stratification
Week 9	Chapter 10, Social Stratification by Migration
	Chapter 11, Social Stratification by Immigration
Week 10	Chapter 12, Other Dimensions of Inequality
	Chapter 13, Thinking about Social Justice
Week 11	Review
Week 12	Final Paper