

SOC 2442: SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY

Fall 2013

Instructor:

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Lectures:

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00-10:50 a.m.
McLeod Hall 2014

Discussion Sections:

Mondays
9:00-9:50 a.m. New Cabell 032
10:00-10:50 a.m. New Cabell 056
12:00-12:50 p.m. New Cabell 056
1:00-1:50 p.m. New Cabell 058

Course Description:

Can we do anything to alleviate poverty? Why are women underrepresented in the sciences? What are the economic challenges facing gay and lesbian couples? How does race matter for one's chances of getting a job? These are a few of the questions we will address in SOC 2442: Systems of Inequality. This course will examine sociological theories and empirical research about inequalities, especially of race, class, gender, and sexuality. We will think about how these inequalities are experienced and reproduced in a range of social institutions, such as in schools or in families. We will also consider how these inequalities can be addressed.

Grading Criteria:

Attendance and Participation: 30%

This includes attending and engaging in lectures and discussion sections.

Weekly Reading Responses: 20%

Please submit a brief written or video response to the readings on weeks where it is assigned on the course outline. The responses should be posted to the discussion forums of Collab by Wednesday at 1 p.m. Written responses should be between 150-250 words. Video responses (using Kaltura) should be 1-2 minutes. You may use the response to share your disagreements with the authors, to ask questions, to connect ideas across several readings, to link the readings to recent events in the news, or to respond to another student's response. You may focus on one reading or respond to all of the readings.

Research Paper: 20%

Your paper should address a popular or scholarly debate related to social inequalities. The paper should be 9-10 pages, and it should draw on at least eight scholarly sources related to the topic. It will be due on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 5 p.m. You will receive a more detailed handout to guide you.

Midterm and Final Exams: 30%

The midterm and final exams (15% each toward the final grade) will examine your understanding of key definitions, theories, and empirical findings from lectures and course readings. They could include multiple choice, true-false, sentence completion, and short essay questions. The midterm

exam will be held in class on Thursday, October 17. The final exam will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013 from 2-5 p.m. in McLeod 2014.

Readings:

All course readings will be available on Collab. They are linked from the online syllabus.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I: INTRODUCTION

August 27:

- First day of class!

August 29:

- Jackson, Robert Max. 2007. "Inequalities." *Contexts* 6: 56-61.

PART II: FORMS OF INEQUALITY

Class

September 3:

- Mantsios, Gregory. 2013. "Class in America--2012." Pp. 202-214 in *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States, 9th Edition*, edited by Paula S. Rothenberg. New York: Worth Publishers.
- Shipler, David. 2004. "Money and Its Opposite." Pp. 13-39 in *The Working Poor*. New York: Vintage Books.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Class" readings on Collab by Wednesday, September 4 at 1 p.m.

September 5:

- Johnston, David C. 2005. "Richest Are Leaving Even the Rich Far Behind." pp. 182-191 in *Class Matters*. New York: The New York Times.
- Sernau, Scott. 2010. "The Global Divide: Inequality across Societies." Pp. 27-54 in *Social Inequality in a Global Age*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Gender and Sexuality

September 10:

- Lorber, Judith. 1994. "Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender." Pp. 13-36 in *Paradoxes of Gender*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Martin, Karin A. 1998. "Becoming a Gendered Body: Practices of Preschools." *American Sociological Review* 63: 494-511.
- Gwen Sharp and Lisa Wade. 2010. "Consuming Oppression." *Contexts* 9: 48-49.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Gender and Sexuality" readings on Collab by Wednesday, September 11 at 1 p.m.

September 12:

- Katz, Jonathan. 2010. "The Invention of Heterosexuality." Pp. 150-162 in *The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality*, edited by Tracy Ore. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Pascoe, C.J. 2007. "Compulsive Heterosexuality: Masculinity and Dominance." Pp. 84-115 in *Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Race, Ethnicity, and Nation**September 17:**

- Cornell, Stephen E. and Douglas Hartmann. 2007. "Mapping the Terrain: Definitions." Pp. 15-41 in *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing World*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Barrett, James and David Roediger. 2008. "How White People Became White." Pp. 35-40 in *White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism*, edited by Paula S. Rothenberg. New York: Worth Publishers.

Assignment: Please submit a 150-250 word memo on Collab by Wednesday, September 18 at 1 p.m. that identifies the topic for your research paper and includes your initial ideas about the paper.

September 19:

- Blank, Rebecca. 2009. "An Overview of Trends in Social and Economic Well-Being by Race." Pp. 39-48 in *Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity*, edited by Charles A. Gallagher. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Wade, Lisa and Gwen Sharp. 2010. "Flesh-Toned." *Contexts* 9:84-85.
- Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2007. "Racism without 'Racists.'" Pp. 91-97 in *Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology*, edited by Margaret L. Anderson and Patricia Hill-Collins. Belmont, CA: Thomson.

PART III: STEPPING BACK – INTELLECTUAL HISTORY**Intellectual History****September 24:**

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. [1848] 1978. "Bourgeois and Proletarians." Pp. 473-491 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.
- Du Bois, W.E.B. 1933. "Marxism and the Negro Problem." Pp. 538-545 in *W.E.B. Du Bois: A Reader*, edited by David Levering Lewis. New York: Holt and Company.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Intellectual History" readings for this week on Collab by Wednesday, September 25 at 1 p.m.

September 26:

- Weber, Max. [1922] 1946. "Class, Status, and Party." Pp. 180-195 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by Hans Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gans, Herbert. 1971. "The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All." *Social Policy* 2: 20-24.

Intellectual History (continued)

October 1:

- Cooper, Anna J. 1892. "The Status of Woman in America." Pp. 127-146 in *A Voice from the South*. Xenia, OH: Aldine Printing.
- Friedan, Betty. 1963. "The Problem That Has No Name." Pp. 15-32 in *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: Norton.
- Foucault, Michel. [1978] 1990. "We 'Other' Victorians." Pp. 1-14 in *History of Sexuality: Volume 1 An Introduction*. New York: Vintage Books.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Intellectual History" or "Work" readings for this week on Collab by Wednesday, October 2 at 1 p.m.

PART IV: EXPERIENCING AND REPRODUCING INEQUALITIES

Work

October 3:

- Ehrenreich, Barbara. 1999. "Nickled-and-Dimed." *Harper's Magazine* 298: 37-53.

Work (continued)

October 8:

- Royster, Deirdre. 2003. "Networks of Inclusion, Networks of Exclusion: The Production and Maintenance of Segregated Opportunity Structures." Pp. 144-178 in *Race and the Invisible Hand: How White Networks Exclude Black Men from Blue-Collar Jobs*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Garcia-Lopez, Gladys. 2008. "'Nunca Te Toman En Cuenta [They Never Take You Into Account]': The Challenges of Inclusion and Strategies for Success of Chicana Attorneys." *Gender & Society* 22: 590-612.

Assignment: Please submit a bibliography of at least eight scholarly sources that you will use in your paper on Collab by Wednesday, October 9 at 1 p.m. Please format the sources using the *American Sociological Association* citation style.

October 10:

- Williams, Christine. 2004. "Inequality in the Toy Store." *Qualitative Sociology* 27: 461-486.
- Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 1991. "Cleaning Up/Kept Down: A Historical Perspective on Racial Inequality in 'Women's Work.'" *Stanford Law Review* 43: 1333-1356.

October 15: Reading Day

October 17: Midterm Exam

Education

October 22:

- MacLeod, Jay. 2011. "Ain't No Makin' It: Leveled Aspirations in a Low-Income Neighborhood." Chapter 59 in David Grusky and Szonja Szelenyi (editors). *The Inequality Reader: Contemporary and Foundational Readings in Race, Class, and Gender, 2nd Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Education" readings for this week on Collab by Wednesday, October 23 at 1 p.m.

October 24:

- Western, Bruce, Vincent Schiraldi, and Jason Ziedenberg. 2003. *Education and Incarceration*. Washington, D.C.: Justice Policy Institute.
- Billing, Gloria G. 2013. "Lack of Achievement or Loss of Opportunity?" Pp. 11-24 in *Closing the Opportunity Gap: What America Must Do to Give Every Child an Even Chance*, edited by Prudence L. Carter and Kevin G. Welner. New York: Oxford University Press.

Education (continued)

October 29:

- Gabler, Jay and Jason Kaufmann. 2006. "Chess, Cheerleading, Chopin: What Gets You into College?" *Contexts* 5: 45-49.
- Charles, Maria. 2011. "What Gender Is Science?" *Contexts* 10(2): 22-28.

Please submit a one-page outline of your research paper on Collab by Wednesday, October 30 at 1 p.m.

Intimacy and Family

October 31:

- Armstrong, Elizabeth, Laura Hamilton, and Paula England. 2010. "Is Hooking Up Bad for Women?" *Contexts* 9: 22-27.
- Chou, Rosalind. 2012. "Asian American Sexual Politics: Love and Relationships." Pp. 137-174 in *Asian American Sexual Politics: The Construction of Race, Gender, and Sexuality*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Intimacy and Family (continued)

November 5:

- Newman, Katherine. 2006. "All in the Family." Pp. 117-152 in *Chutes and Ladders: Navigating the Low-Wage Labor Market*. New York: Russell Sage.
- Brown, Carolyn M. 2013. "Marriage and Financial Inequality: Why Gay and Lesbian Couples Pay More." *Black Enterprise*, April/May, pp. 36-40.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Intimacy and Family" readings for this week on Collab by Wednesday, November 6 at 1p.m.

November 7:

- Hill-Collins, Patricia. 2012. "Just Another American Story? The First Black First Family." *Qualitative Sociology* 35:123-141.

Neighborhoods and Place

November 12:

- Loewen, James. 2009. "Sundown Towns and Counties: Racial Exclusion in the South." *Southern Cultures* 15: 22-47.
- Sugrue, Thomas. 2013. "A House Divided." *The Washington Monthly* 45: 41-44.

Please submit the first two pages of your research paper to Collab by Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 1 p.m.

November 14:

- Coffey, Laura. 2011. "Home Disadvantage." *The American Prospect*, June, pp. A12.
- Laszewski, Chuck. 2008. "The Sociologists' Take on the Environment." *Contexts* 7: 20-25.

PART V: INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Social Movements

November 19:

- Meyer, David S. 2003. "How Social Movements Matter." *Contexts* 2: 30-35.
- D'Emilio, John. 2009. "The Gay Liberation Movement." Pp. 36-42 in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts, 2nd Edition*, edited by Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Social Movements" readings on Collab by Wednesday, November 20 at 1 p.m.

November 21:

- Lerner, Stephen. 2007. "Global Corporations, Global Unions." *Contexts* 6: 16-22.
- Barnett, Bernice M. 1993. "Invisible Southern Black Women Leaders in the Civil Rights Movement: The Triple Constraints of Gender, Race, and Class." *Gender & Society* 7: 162-182.

Social Policy

November 25: Please submit final research paper by 5 p.m.

November 26:

- Keister, Lisa. 2012. "Public Policy and Social Stratification." Pp. 365-388 in *Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

November 28: Thanksgiving Break

Social Policy (continued)

December 3:

- Continue - Keister, Lisa. 2012. "Public Policy and Social Stratification." Pp. 365-388 in *Inequality: A Contemporary Approach to Race, Class, and Gender*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Assignment: Please submit your response to the "Social Policy" reading by Wednesday, December 4 at 1 p.m.

Course Review and Wrap-Up

December 5:

- No new readings

December 9: Final exam in McLeod 2014 from 2-5 p.m.