

Sociology 331
Social Class and Inequality
Iowa State University
Fall 2017
M W & F 11:00-11:50
Lago 0164 Hall

Professor: Dr. G. Jones Johnson
Office: 202 East Hall
Office Hours: M, & W 1:30-3:30 pm (& by appt.)
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COURSE OVERVIEW:

The goal is to familiarize students with the many ways that sociologists and others have put forth to account for the origins, persistence and consequences of socio-economic inequality (social class and poverty) in America. It examines sociological theories of inequality and stratification, as well as empirical investigations of the institutions and processes by which social rewards and resources are differentially distributed. While the main focus is the examination and analysis of patterns and trends in poverty, class, race and gender inequality in contemporary U.S., the material includes a description of historical patterns and of social change. The policy implications of the various theoretical perspectives and empirical findings will be discussed in relationship to global economic inequality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to describe and apply concepts and theories of social class and inequality through in-class discussion, projects, exams and short papers.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding and appreciation of social inequality research by reading the literature, examining inequality in social media and finding connections between their own personal lives and social issues.

REQUIRED READINGS

Hurst, Charles, Heather Fitz Gibbon and Anne Nurse. 2017. *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences*. 9th edition. New York: Taylor & Francis.

Alexander, Michelle. 2011. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Revised Edition. New York, The New Press.

Desmond, Matthew. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Crown Publisher.

Films, videos and guest lectures will be annotated. Please check course web page (<http://www.soc.iastate.edu/classes.html>). /See Blackboard

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be evaluated in terms of **two exams (Mid-term and Final exam) consisting** of objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, matching) **four(4) exercises completed in dyad or 2 members) and two (2) group projects completed in dyad (2 members)**. There will be **two (2) In-Class Group Interteaching Sessions in which students will work in dyads (2 members) to teach each other key concepts and theories.(extra credit)**. Students will work in **group of 2** and will be allowed to use notes and books during the interteaching session which will be used to prepare students for the two exams. These sessions will help to structure the content for the exams. I will take an average of the 2 grades and assign extra credit to each group member (a missed session will be assigned a zero). **Students are required to work in a group of 2 to complete four exercises and two group projects. Students will voluntarily select group members. However, if you have a problem finding a group, please let me know at least two weeks before the exercise or project is due.** The two exams will cover course notes (posted on **Blackboard**) and the major text, Hurst, Gibbon and Nurse. 2017. *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences*. 9th edition. **ALL EXERCISES, and PROJECTS WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.**

Each student is **required** to write a two sentence statement that describes their contribution to the group exercises and projects. This statement with initials is required for a student to get a grade for each group exercise and project. Students will not be given a grade for a group project in which their statement with initials does not appear. If you have circumstances that prevent working in a group, please discuss it with me **immediately**. Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit points through group project presentation (3 points per project) and in-class activities and **25 points will be required to change a borderline grade. Extra credit points**

will be summed at the end of the semester to help determine borderline grades.

A student can make up any exam, projects and exercises by providing a **signed written justification** for the absence with in **three days** of the missed exam, project or exercise.

For best results, discuss your possible circumstance with me before you miss the exam, project or exercise. You will have one week in which to make up an excused exam or to submit a project or exercise without penalty. In subsequent weeks you may make up the exam or submit the project or exercise at a penalty--the lowering by one grade level of your score for each intervening week. **I do not accept email assignments unless you have an emergency and received my permission to do so. I do not accept late work unless you have discussed it with me and received my approval. All course assignments must be typed except projects/activities completed in class.**

Please turn off **cell phones** or put on vibrate and **do not eat** in class unless you have enough to share with everyone. I expect each student to respect the professor and each other and not carry on side conversations while I am talking or while others are presenting or sharing their ideas with the class.

Regular class attendance is expected and class attendance will be checked regularly. Students who attend class on a regular basis and read weekly reading assignments prior to class meetings in which they are to be discussed will maximize their success in the course. There will be NO INCOMPLETES (except under extraordinary circumstances). Grades are assigned + or -. University policies on academic dishonesty apply to all work in this course (please see Student Handbook). I encourage students to make active use of the instructor outside of the classroom, and office hours are provided for this purpose. Please call me at my office (294-2947) or stop by my office, 202 East Hall during my office hours before and if you have a problem. Leave a message with your telephone number on my office answering machine if I am not available and I will return your call as soon as I can. I DO NOT accept telephone calls at my HOME unless it is an EMERGENCY, however, I will be happy to make an appointment to discuss your concerns. Students can also reach me by e-mail.

Your final course grade will be based on the following:

EXAM 1 or mid-term exam	30%	
EXAM 2 or final exam	30%	
Four Exercises (each is 5% of grade)	20%	(Based on required books)
Two (2) group projects (each is 10% of grade)	<u>20%</u>	(extra credit group presentation)
TOTAL	100%	

Grading: 94+ A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 83-86 B, 80-82 B-, 77-79 C+, 73-76 C, 70-72 C-, 67-69 D+, 63-66 D, 60-62 D-, <60 F.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating on exams and use of notes or soliciting help from fellow students during an exam are not allowed. Plagiarism (the use of other's ideas and writings without proper acknowledgement) is a serious violation of university ethics (see Iowa State Information Handbook for detailed information). To avoid committing this offense, the following guidelines must be carefully followed.

- 1) All quotations of exact words must be enclosed in quotation marks, with indication of the exact source from which they are copied (e.g. articles, books, newspapers).
- 2) All paraphrases, summaries, or adaptations of passages which a writer sees fit to borrow must have the source of such material clearly indicated.
- 3) All factual material, except that which is of common knowledge, must have the source from which it is taken properly and completely acknowledged.
- 4) All assistance given to you as the writer either by books, by fellow students, or by experienced persons whom one interviews must be properly and completely acknowledged.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Required Readings</u>
1	8/21-25	Topic: Sociology and Social Inequality
	8/21	Introduction to Social Stratification.
	8/23	Hurst, et al.. <i>Social Inequality</i> . Chapter 1
	8/25	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> . Chapter 2, pages 15-32
2	8/28-9/1	Topic: Forms and Systems of Inequality
	8/28	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> . Chapter 2 ,pages 33-44 (skip chapter 3)
	8/30	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> , Chapter 4, pages 70-80
	9/1	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> , Chapter 4, pages 81-91
3	9/4-8	Topic: Classical Theories of Class and Social Inequality
	9/4	LABOR DAY-University Holiday, no class
	9/6	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> , Chapter 9, pages 215-230
	9/8	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> , Chapter 9, pages 231-241
		<u>Discuss Exercise 1</u> 1, worth 5% of grade) <u>Due: Sept 25(See Blackboard for details</u>
4	9/11-15	Topic: Contemporary Theories of Class and Social Inequality
	9/11	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> , Chapter 10, pages 242-256
		Functional and Conflict Theories-Class Notes- See Blackboard
	9/13	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> . Chapter 10, pages 256-264
	9/15	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> . Chapter 11, pages 267-274
5	9/18-22	Topic: Impact of Inequality on Personal Life Chances
	9/18	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> , Chapter 11, pages 274-280
	9/20	Hurst et al. <i>Social Inequality</i> . Chapter 11, pages 280-286
	9/22	Discuss Exercise 2 worth 5% of grade Due: October 13 See Blackboard for details
6	9/25-29	Topic: Review and Mid-term Exam (Exam Covers Chapters 1, 2,4,9,10)
	9/25	Hurst et al. Chapter 13
	9/27	Hurst et al, Chapter 13, pages 315-326.
	9/29	Review for Mid-term Exam
		In –Class Interteaching Dyad Group Exercise
7	10/2-6	Topic: Race, Social Class and Mass Incarceration
	10/2	Mid-term Exam (in –class)
	10/4	Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow</i> , Introduction, Chapter 1, pages 20-58.
	10/6	Alexander. <i>The New Jim Crow</i> . Chapter 2 pages 59-96
		Discuss Project 1 (Race, Ethnicity and Mass Incarceration based on <i>The New Jim Crow</i>) Due November 3 (small group project)
8	10/9-13	Topic: Race, Social Class and Mass Incarceration
	10/9	Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow</i> , Chapter 3, pages 97-139
	10/11	Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow</i> , Chapter 4, pages 140-177

- 10/13 Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*. Chapter 5, pages 178-220
- 9 10/16-20 **Topic: Colorblindness, Inequality and Crime**
- 10/16 Alexander. *The New Jim Crow*. Chapter 6, pages 221-236
- 10/18 Alexander. *The New Jim Crow*, Chapter 6, pages 236-261
- 10/20 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 12, pages 287-314,
- 10 10/23-27 **Topic: Social Mobility, status Attainment, Justice and Legitimacy**
- 10/23 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 14, pages 347-360
- 10/25 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 14, pages 360-369
- 10/27 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*, Chapter 15, pages 370-385
- 11 10/30-11/3 **Topic: Political Dimension of Inequality and Sex and Gender Inequality**
- 10/30 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 5, pages 92-114
- 11/1 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 6, pages 115-133
- 11/3 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 6, pages 133-151
- Discuss Exercise 3 Due November 17**
- 12 11/6-10 **Topic: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Expression and Racial and Ethnic Inequality**
- 11/6 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 7, pages 152-167
- 11/8 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 7, pages 167-177
- 11/10 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 8, pages 178-190
- Discuss Project 2 Understanding Poverty, Welfare and Homelessness based on *Evicted*: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Due: December 8**
- 13 11/13-17 **Topic: Immigration, Inequality and Poverty**
- 11/13 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 8, pages 191-212
- 11/15 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 3, pages 45-56
- 11/17 Hurst et al. *Social Inequality*. Chapter 3, pages 56-69
- Discuss Exercise 4 Due November 29**
- 14 11/20-24 **THANKSGIVING BREAK** (classes recessed)
- 15 11/27-12/1 **Topic: Poverty, Welfare and Homelessness**
- 11/27 Desmond. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Prologue, pages 1-63, chapter 1-5
- 11/29 Desmond, *Evicted*. Chapters 6-8, pages 64-107
- 12/1 Desmond, *Evicted*. Chapters 9-12, pages 111-166
- 16 12/4-8 **Topic: Poverty, Homelessness and Public Policy**
- 12/4 Desmond. *Evicted*. Chapters 13-16, pages 167-203.
- 12/6 Desmond. *Evicted*. Chapters 17-21, pages 207-258
- 12/8 Desmond. *Evicted*. Chapters 22-about this project, pages 260-336.
- 12/8 **Interteaching Group Exercise (extra credit) and Review for Final Exam**

17 12/11-15 **FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK**

FINAL EXAM Includes all materials, handouts, class notes and required readings since Mid-term EXAM , -Hurst et al, *Social Inequality*, , **Chapters 12, 14,15,5,6,7,8,and 3)**

Please check the final exam schedule on ISU homepage click E,scroll to Exams,final Final Exam is Wednesday, December 13, 9:45-11:45 am.

NOTE: Please use Exercises, notes, handouts, Group Exercises, reviews and projects as study guides for Exams. **PLEASE** review your notes regularly and try to keep up with required readings.

See Blackboard for announcements, notes, grades, exercises and projects. Due dates and exams may change so please attend class and check announcements on Blackboard.

Special Accommodations: Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Delay in notification to the instructor could lead to other delays . Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resources (DR) office located in Room 1076 of the Student Services Building.

SOCIOLOGY CODE OF ETHICS FOR HUMAN RELATIONS: *The Department of Sociology is committed to providing a professional and educational environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. The department's Code of Ethics for Human Relations and the Procedures for Filing Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment are posted on the bulletin boards on all five floors of East Hall.*

Exercise 1-Two approaches to Social Class Due September 25,2017

Mid-term Exam In class- October 2,2017

Exercise 2 – Classical and Contemporary Theories Due October 13,2017

Project 1- Race, Ethnicity and Mass Incarceration based on book, *The New Jim Crow* Due November 3, 2017

Exercise 3- Gender Breaching and Women Equality Due November 17,2017

Exercise 4- Understanding Immigration Due November 29,2017

Project 2- Poverty, Welfare and Homelessness based on the book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Due December 8,2017

Final Exam Wednesday December 13 ,2017 9:45- 11:45 a.m.