

# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Soc 260 A1  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Stephen Speake, Ph.D.

Location: **CAB 365**

Time: **TR 1100 – 1220 hrs**

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Office Hours: half hour before and after each class

Course information is available at eClass: <https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/>

*ALL students are encouraged to contact me if they have questions about the course materials, exams or assignments.*

**Course Prerequisites:** Soc 100 or the consent of the instructor.

### Course Description

Inequality and stratification are contested in sociology as well as within Canadian society. This course introduces a variety of sociological perspectives for conceptualizing and analysing inequality and social stratification in a Canadian and North American context. Throughout the course, we will attempt to understand its main processes and structures at the local and national levels. We will do this by looking at how and what inequalities are produced and reproduced through economic, social, and political forms.

### Course Objectives

- ✓ To become thoroughly familiar with the ideas, concepts, found in the course material.
- ✓ To better understand the social determinants of inequality and social stratification.
- ✓ To better understand Canadian society through the lens of inequality.
- ✓ To examine the extent and trends in inequality and stratification.

### Required Texts

McMullin, Julie. (2016). *Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada* (Third Edition). Oxford, England: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 978-0-19-901092-9)

**The instructor does not endorse or recommend any other edition of this textbook for this course!**

### Classroom policies

- ✓ students are expected to be in class on time and stay until the end of the lecture
- ✓ respectful behaviour is expected at all times

- ✓ students are not permitted to engage in casual conversations with other students during class-time
- ✓ **THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT PROVIDE LECTURE MATERIALS OR NOTES TO ANY STUDENT FOR ANY REASON**; nor will that information be on reserve in the Library or on the Internet. If a student is missing notes from a lecture, they should seek to copy lecture notes from their classmates. If a student misses the showing of any audio/visual material, it is the responsibility of the student to arrange to view that material by going to the library or renting the video from local rental stores.
- ✓ Typically, I respond to emails within 24 to 48 hours. This excludes weekends. Emails sent after 5:00 p.m. on Friday will be answered on Monday.

### Grade Evaluation

There will be two midterms and a final exam in this course. All the exams assume you have knowledge of readings, lectures and videos presented in class.

### Format of Exams

All exam questions are drawn from the lectures AND the textbook. While most of the exam questions will be focused through the topics/concepts/examples raised during the lectures, some exam questions may not be covered during the lectures. The first midterm asks only true/false and multiple-choice types of questions. The second midterm and the final exam may consist of some combination of term definitions, lists, match, short answer, true or false, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. Representative questions of the *different types* of questions found in the exams may be found on eClass; however, these questions are not intended as study questions, but are only representative of the types of questions you may find in any of the exams throughout the course. The instructor does not provide practice exams.

Students will have 80 minutes to write each of the midterm exams in class on the day the exam is scheduled. The final exam is **NOT** cumulative.

### Grade Criterion

Grades will be largely determined based on absolute measure: i.e. the raw score for each assignment will be converted into a percentage score based on the weight of the assignment. The cumulative percentage score will be converted into a final grade as shown in the following table.

| <b><u>Grade</u></b> | <b><u>Percentage</u></b> | <b><u>Grade Points</u></b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| A+                  | 95-100                   | 4.0                        |
| A                   | 90-94                    | 4.0                        |
| A-                  | 85-89                    | 3.7                        |
| B+                  | 80-84                    | 3.3                        |
| B                   | 76-79                    | 3.0                        |
| B-                  | 72-75                    | 2.7                        |
| C+                  | 68-71                    | 2.3                        |

|    |       |     |
|----|-------|-----|
| C  | 64-67 | 2.0 |
| C- | 60-63 | 1.7 |
| D+ | 55-59 | 1.3 |
| D  | 50-54 | 1.0 |
| F  | 0 -49 | 0   |

### Important Dates

|            |                         |      |
|------------|-------------------------|------|
| Midterm 1  | <i>October 9, 2018</i>  | 35 % |
| Midterm 2  | <i>November 1, 2018</i> | 30 % |
| Final Exam | <i>TBA**</i>            | 35 % |

\* WARNING: Students must verify the date, time and location on Bear Tracks.

### Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings

This is a **tentative** schedule. We will spend more time of some chapters and less on others. Some material **may be eliminated** depending on the needs and pace of the course. Any changes will be announced in class throughout the term. It is the student's responsibility to make themselves aware of those changes.

| <u>Date</u>          | <u>Topic</u>                        | <u>Reading</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Sep 4                | Course Introduction                 |                |
| Sep 6, 11            | Introduction                        | Chapter 1      |
| Sep 13, 18, 20       | Class and Inequality                | Chapter 2      |
| Sep 25, 27           | Gender and Inequality               | Chapter 3      |
| Oct 2, 4             | Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality     | Chapter 4      |
| <b>Oct 9</b>         | <b>Midterm 1</b>                    | Chapter 6      |
| Oct 11, 16           | Actors and Agency/CAGE              | Chapter 6/7    |
| Oct 18, 23           | Families and domestic labour        | Chapter 8      |
| Oct 25, 30           | Paid Work                           | Chapter 9      |
| <b>Nov 1</b>         | <b>Midterm 2</b>                    | Chapter 10     |
| Nov 6, 8             | Education                           | Chapter 10     |
| <b>Nov 11, 12-16</b> | <b>Remembrance Day/Reading Week</b> |                |
| Nov 20, 22, 27       | Health                              | Chapter 11     |
| Nov 29, Dec 4        | The State                           | Chapter 12/13  |
| Dec 6                | Extended office hours               |                |

### Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. Regarding absences from **term exams** that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Attendance Section of the University Calendar. If you miss a mid-term exam, notify your instructor by email within two working days, or as soon as you are able to, in regard to the circumstance underlying the absence.

Approval for an excused absence is **AT THE DISCRETION of the instructor** (See Attendance Section of the University Calendar). Excused absences are not automatic, and, in the case of term work and midterm exams, are at the discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documentation. For a medical illness, students may provide:

- *University of Alberta Medical Statement* signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but must be accepted in lieu of other documents)
- *A Medical Declaration Form for Students* (for Faculty of Arts students)
- *A Statutory Declaration* (for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from their home faculty of the Office of the Registrar).

For all other cases, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation to the situation. This could include the following:

- For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
- For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department about appropriate documents

Students will not be permitted to rewrite or do ‘make up’ exams for missed mid-term exams. If a student misses a mid-term due to an excused absence, the same grade earned on the final exam mark will then also be used as the missed mid-term mark in the calculation of the final grade. Lack of notice and/or suitable documentation will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam.

The Instructor cannot grant a deferral for a missed final exam. If you miss the final exam for any reason, the student must get approval to write a deferred exam from their respective Faculty. Application for a deferred exam must be made within two working days from the missed exam date, or as soon as the student is able to, in regard to the circumstance underlying the absence. If a student is approved by their Faculty to write a deferred final exam, then the instructor will set a date and time for an approved deferred final exam. The date for approved deferred final exam will be held on **January 12, 2018**.

### **Academic Integrity**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) of the University Calendar.”

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise,

created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s)."

In this course, the instructor WILL NOT PERMIT or give consent to any audio or visual recordings of the lectures unless the recording of lectures is part of an approved accommodation plan.

### ***Learning and Working Environment***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all student, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy, you may contact the student ombudservice: <http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the UAPPOL(<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/Pages/default.aspx>).