

INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Soc 260 B1
Summer 2019

Instructor: Stephen Speake, Ph.D.

Location: **Bus 4 – 9**

Time: **TR 1330 – 1620 hrs**

Office: HM Tory 4-7

Phone: TBA

Email: sspeake@ualberta.ca

Office Hours: half hour before and after each class

Course information is available at eClass: https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/
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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 theoretical approaches used to conceptualize inequality and then review the exiting patterns and trends of inequality at the local and national levels in Canada.

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 always expected

- ✓ 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.

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. Students will not be allowed to do supplemental course work to improve their grades.

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 and taken from the material in the textbook. The **first midterm** asks only true/false and multiple-choice types of questions. The **second midterm** and the **final exam** will 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 90 minutes to write each of the midterm exams in class on the day the exam is scheduled. The final exam is **NOT** cumulative and will also be only 90 minutes in duration and not the full two hours scheduled by the Registrar Office.

Grade Criterion

Marks for graded course requirements are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from all graded components produces the final letter grade for the course.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Points
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>July 23, 2019</i>	35 %
Midterm 2	<i>August 6, 2019</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 on 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.

Date	Topic	Reading
Jul 9	Course Introduction	
Jul 9	Introduction	Chapter 1
Jul 11	Class and Inequality	Chapter 2
Jul 16	Gender and Inequality	Chapter 3
Jul 18	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality	Chapter 4
Jul 23	Midterm 1 (Lecture resumes after the exam)	Chapter 6
Jul 25	Actors and Agency/CAGE	Chapter 7 - 8
Jul 30	Families and domestic labour	Chapter 8 - 9
Aug 1	Paid Work	Chapter 9
Aug 6	Midterm 2 (lecture continues after exam)	Chapter 10
Aug 8	Education/Health	Chapter 10 - 11
Aug 13	Health/The State	Chapter 11 - 12/13

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 Request for Excused Absence or Deferral of Term Work*
- *A Statutory Declaration.*

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

Policy for missed midterm exams

Lack of notice and/or suitable documentation will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam.

If a student misses a mid-term and has been granted an approved excused absence, those students will have to write a ‘make up’ exam(s) on Thursday, **August 15, 2019 at 13:00 a.m. in BUS 4 - 9.**

This date is not negotiable and no further excused absences will be approved by the Instructor for students who fail to write their exams on this date.

Absence from final exam

If you miss the final exam, you must formally apply to your Faculty Student Services office to be considered for a deferred final exam within two working days from the date of the missed exam (or as soon as possible, considering the circumstances). The instructor cannot approve or deny requests for deferred final exams. Refer to the Absence from Final Exams information provided in the [Attendance](#) section of the University Calendar for full details.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*.

If a student has an approved by their Faculty to write a deferred final exam, the date for writing the deferred final exams will be scheduled for **Monday, August 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in BUS 4 - 9.** This date is not negotiable. Failure to write the exam on this date will result in a grade of zero.

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.ualberta.ca/governance/) 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 students, 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. 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>).