

Inequality and Social Stratification
SOCIOLOGY 260 (A1)
Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

Spring Session (May 10- June 23), 2021
Monday/Wednesday: 9:00am-11:50am

Instructor: Sharon Springer
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emails answered typically within 48 hours (Monday-Friday)
Office Hours: Online by Appointment
please request appointment through email

Course Description

Description: Introduction to the study of structured social inequalities and poverty; major theoretical approaches; findings from key empirical studies, with emphasis on Canada.
Prerequisite: SOC 100 or consent of instructor (taken from the University of Alberta Course Catalogue, 2020-2021).

This course is organized in three parts. Part 1 introduces the sociological study of social inequality by examining theories based on class, age, gender, ethnicity, and 'race'. Part 2 examines the relationship between human agency and structural inequalities. Part 3 explores the interlocking structural systems of inequality evident in social institutions (e.g., families, healthcare) and in reference to government policies. This course is focused on structural inequality in Canada.

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

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will have:

- developed an awareness of the structural nature of factors related to inequality;
- gained an understanding of how structures of inequality are produced and reproduced through human agency and interaction; and,
- advanced their intersectional analytical skills

Required Textbook

McMullin, J. and Curtis, J. (2017). **Understanding Social Inequality. Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada.** (Third Edition). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

This textbook can be purchased through the UofA bookstore. The ebook is available also through the campus bookstore: [Spring 2021- SOC 260 A1](#).

Other Course Requirements-Technology

A desk or laptop computer with video and audio capability is required for this course. PowerPoint slide decks will not be posted in PDF format. Students must have Zoom installed on their computer to access live class discussions. Exams will be delivered through remote proctoring technology (using Smart Exam Monitoring [SEM]).

Registration

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are properly registered. Please ensure that you are officially registered in this course by consulting their Class Schedule in *Bear Tracks*.

Class Format

This course will be delivered in online/remote format in the Spring 2021 term.

Login to Eclass on the first day (May 10) at 9am for the first pre-recorded PowerPoint lecture. This first lecture will serve as an introduction to the instructor and the class and will provide students an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the orientation, content, and logistics of the course.

There will be pre-recorded PowerPoint slides posted to the Drive every Monday and Wednesday. Students are required to complete weekly independent readings (assigned at the end of each week), to view movies/documentaries as assigned, and to attend synchronous lectures (through Zoom) as scheduled.

Class Conduct & Practices

- Pre-recorded PowerPoint slide decks will be released on Monday and Wednesday
- When live class presentations/discussions are scheduled, they will be held at 9am on either Monday or Wednesday (see Zoom Meetings in Course Schedule below)
- *Students are responsible for information provided in all classes*

- 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.
- 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) 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 written prior 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).
- The pre-recorded lecture material cannot be duplicated or shared in anyway. Material covered in class sessions cannot be recorded or shared. Engaging in either of these will be considered a violation of the Code of Student Behaviour and can result in serious consequences.

U of A Student Services, Resources, and Support

Your life and well-being as a U of A student are interconnected. From feeling financially secure to managing your time, your experiences — positive and negative — impact other areas of your life. U of A student services, resources, and support help you find balance, create growth, and build your success as a student (taken from the University of Alberta 'Current Students' website). For information concerning student services available on campus, please visit [Student Services](#).

Accessibility Resources

Students who require accommodations in this class due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning or mental or physical health must contact Accessibility Resources to discuss their needs. The Accessibility Resources office can be reached by emailing arrec@ualberta.ca. Please inform the instructor of any accommodations recommended by Accessibility Resources as soon as possible.

Course Schedule¹:

Lecture Date	Topic	Relevant Textbook Chapter
May 10	Course Overview Introduction Class & Inequality	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
May 12	Gender & Inequality	Chapter 3
May 17	Race, Ethnicity & Inequality Zoom Meeting (9:00- 10:00 am)	Chapter 4
May 19	Midterm Exam #1 Age & Inequality	Chapter 5
May 24	Victoria Day: No Classes	
May 26	Disability & Inequality Actors & Agency Zoom Meeting (9:00- 10:00 am)	----- Chapter 6
May 31	Congress of the Humanities and Sciences: No Classes	
June 2	Congress of the Humanities and Sciences: No Classes	
June 7	Actors & CAGEs	Chapter 7
June 9	Midterm Exam #2 CAGEs & Families	Chapter 8
June 14	CAGEs & Paid Work Zoom Meeting (9:00- 10:00 am)	Chapter 9
June 16	CAGEs & Health	Chapter 11
June 21	CAGEs & the State	Chapter 12
June 23	Conclusion & Wrap-Up Zoom Meeting (9:00- 10:00 am)	
TBA**	FINAL EXAM	

¹ Schedule is subject to minor changes

Course Grading

Midterm #1	30%	May 19 th
Midterm #2	30%	June 9 th
Final Exam	40%	TBA

Midterm Exams²

The midterm exams are on May 19th and June 9th. The exams will start at 9am and will be 1 hour in length. The midterm exams will be in multiple choice format. Students will complete their exams online through Eclass and through the SEM system.

Exam questions will be drawn from the slides, assigned readings and documentary viewings, and lectures.

Final Exam²

The Final Exam is cumulative. The final exam will be 1 1/2 hours in length and will be in multiple choice format. Students will complete their exams through Eclass and the SEM system.

Exam questions will be drawn from the slides, reading assignments, discussions and lectures.

While the University's final exam schedule (including exam times) for the Spring Session has not yet been confirmed, the exam will take place on either June 24th or June 25th. Please monitor Bear Tracks for updated information concerning the final exam schedule.

Missed Midterm Exams

In the event that a student is unable to write a midterm exam and a documented excuse is provided to the satisfaction of the instructor, the student will re-write the exam (not the same exam and not in multiple-choice format) at a time established by the instructor. A grade of 0 will be given for students missing the midterm exam without a valid excuse and for students who miss the re-write exam.

Students are required to contact the instructor within two working days following the missed exam (or as soon as the student is able, with regard to the circumstances) to apply for an excused absence. Excused absences are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documents as follows:

² Representative exam questions will be made available to students

For incapacitating medical illness, students can present one of the following:

- “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents)
- “Request for Excused Absence or Deferral of Term Work”
<https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/student-services/undergraduate-student-services/forms-for-students>

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

Missed Final Exam

In the event that a student is unable to write the final exam, they must contact their Faculty Undergraduate Student Services office to apply for a deferred exam within two working days following the missed exam, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstance underlying the absence. If approved by the Faculty, the student will re-write the exam (not the same exam and not in multiple-choice format) at a time established by the instructor.

Please Note: A deferred final exam will not be approved if a student

- i. has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or,
- ii. excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.

Grading

	Percentage	Letter Grade	4-point value
Excellent	95-100	A+	4.0
	90-94	A	4.0
	85-89	A-	3.7
Good	80-84	B+	3.3
	75-79	B	3.0
	70-74	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	66-69	C+	2.3
	62-65	C	2.0
	58-61	C-	1.7
Poor	54-57	D+	1.3
	50-53	D	1.0
Fail	0-49	F	0.0

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community