

**Social Inequality, SOCI 3324.06**  
**Sam Houston State University, Dept. of Sociology**  
**Spring 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Beth Shively	Meeting: Mondays, 6-8:50 p.m., TWC 255
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### LEARNING GOALS

- Analyze the four major American classes, as well as how race and gender are linked to inequalities in the United States
- Identify attempts to reduce social inequality
- Identify major historical events that have influenced current trends
- Recognize how qualitative sources help reveal the inner workings that accompany people's struggles with the socioeconomic order
- Recognize the impact of social-stratification systems on individuals and families

### REQUIRED TEXTS

*Social Inequality and Social Stratification in US Society* by Christopher Doob

\*\*\*Additional required readings are posted on BLACKBOARD (Bb). Articles, book chapters and other materials **posted on Bb are required reading.** \*\*\*

### EVALUATION

Attendance/Participation:	10% (100 pts.)	A = 900-1000 pts.
Social Capital Autobiography:	15% (100 pts.)	B = 800-899 pts.
MythBusters Assignment:	15% (150 pts.)	C = 700-799 pts.
Policy Brief:	20% (200 pts.)	D = 600-699 pts.
Unit Exams:	(10% + 15% + 15%) = 40% (400 pts.)	F = fewer than 600 pts.

### POLICIES

**Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct:** Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct and plagiarism. Sharing or accessing someone else's answers to exams or searching for answers on the internet during an exam constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own. Always cite sources. If questions arise regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. **All cases of plagiarism and academic misconduct will be treated very seriously.**

### STUDENT RESOURCES

**Disability Services:** SHSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students requiring accommodations should first register with the university's Services for Students with Disabilities: 1916 Avenue J, Lee Drain North Annex – Counseling Center; Ph. (936) 294-3512; TDD (936) 294-3786; E-mail disability@shsu.edu.

**College and Well-Being:** A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises during the semester are encouraged to contact the SHSU Counseling Center for assistance,

support and advocacy. This service is free and confidential. The center is located in the new Student Health & Counseling Center. Ph. (936)-294-1720.

**Student Veterans:** The Veterans Resource Center serves SHSU students who have served the country and assist them with their transition into university life at SHSU. First Floor of Academic Building III; (936)-294-1046.

**For more information on SHSU policies, please review [www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus).**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**Participation:** In order to receive full credit for participation, students must contribute regularly (at least once most weeks) to class discussion.

**Engagement Papers:** Students will complete three short engagement papers (Social Capital Autobiography, MythBusters, Policy Brief). More detailed instructions will be available on Bb.

**Unit Exams:** An exam for each unit will be completed on Bb. A study guide will be posted several days in advance of each exam.

## **UNIT 1**

### **WEEK 1**      ***Introductions and Syllabus Review/The Road to Social Inequality***

Aug. 28      Introductions and Syllabus Review

Watch: Privilege Walk

Doob, Chapter 1: The Road to Social Inequality: A Conceptual Introduction

Review: Chasing the Dream: Poverty & Opportunity in America (Bb link)

Assess: What's Your American Dream Score (Bb link)

Cooper, "Downsizing the American Dream" (Bb)

### **WEEK 2**      ***Labor Day***

Sep. 4      Labor Day: No Class

### **WEEK 3**      ***Theories of Social Stratification and Structural Inequality***

Sep. 11      Doob, Chapter 2: In Marx's Wake: Theories of Social Stratification and Social Inequality

Review: Interlocking Directorates (Bb link)

### **WEEK 4**      ***Foundations for Social Inequality***

Sep. 18      Doob, Chapter 4: Foundation for Social Inequality: Concepts and Structures

Cottle, "Are the Megadonors Distorting American Society?" (on Bb)

**Due in Class: Social Capital Autobiography**

**WEEK 5**

***Globalization through Time And Space***

Sep. 25

Doob, Chapter 3: Repeat Performance: Globalization Through Time and Space

\**Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*/Ehrenreich and Hochschild (on Bb)

Inequality.org, "Workers' Shrinking Piece of the Pie" (on Bb)

**WEEK 6**

***Unit 1 Exam***

Oct. 2

Unit 1 Exam (on Bb): No Class Meeting

**UNIT 2**

**WEEK 7**

***Upper Class or Superclass?***

Oct. 9

Doob, Chapter 5: Heading the Hierarchy: Upper Class or Superclass?

Readings on Bb:

Lowery, "Hoarding the American Dream"

Heath, "Birth Lottery"

Baer, "How Rich People See the World"

Neate, "Super Rich Evade..."

**WEEK 8**

***The Badly Besieged Middle Class/Inequality for All***

Oct. 16

Doob, Chapter 6: The Badly Besieged Middle Class

Film: *Inequality for All* (on your own before class)

**WEEK 9**

***The Working Class***

Oct. 23

Doob, Chapter 7: Working Class: Estranged from Entitlement

Readings on Bb:

Bloom, "Minimum Wage"

Davidson, "Apprenticeships"

Dixon, "Wage Gap"

Pugh, "Stable Wages"

**WEEK 10**

***American Poverty***

Oct. 30

Doob, Chapter 8: American Poverty: The Dream Turned Nightmare

Readings on Bb

White, "Escaping Poverty"

Linthicum, "I Feel Forgotten"

Mathewson, "Poverty Changes the Brain"

Boustan et al, "Poverty and Disaster"

Williamson, "The Poor and Taxes"

Hunter, "Keeping the Poor in Jail"

**WEEK 11**

***Unit 2 Exam***

Nov. 6

Unit 2 Exam (on Bb): No Class Meeting

**Due On Bb Nov. 12: MythBusters assignment**

**UNIT 3**

**WEEK 12**

***Racism: A Persistent American Presence***

Nov. 13

Doob, Chapter 9: Racism: A Persistent American Presence

Readings on Bb

Feagin, "*The Myth of the Model Minority: Asian Americans Facing Racism*"/Rosalind S. Chou"

Harriet, "The Pretrial Profit System"

Anderson, "Myth of Meritocracy"

**WEEK 13**

***Thanksgiving Week***

Nov. 20

Thanksgiving Week: No Class Meeting

**WEEK 14**

***Sexism and Gender Inequality/Inequality in the Workplace/Intersectionality***

Nov. 27

Doob, Chapter 10: Women's Oppression: Sexism and Intersectionality

Readings on Bb

Grant, "Ads and Gender"

Green, "Wealthy Women and Marriage..."

Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan, "Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination"

Kitroeff, "Women and workforce"

Burns and Krehely, "Gay and Transgender People Face High Rates of Workplace Discrimination and Harassment"

**Due in Class: Policy Brief**

**FINALS**

***Unit 3 Exam***

Dec. 4

Exam (on Bb): No Class Meeting