

Social Inequality, SOCI 3324.11,12,13
Sam Houston State University, Dept. of Sociology
Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Beth Shively	Meeting: Online
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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

Weekly Course Review Wiki & Quizzes:	40%	(400 pts.)	A = 900-1000 pts.
Unit Exams:	(15% + 20% + 25%) =	60%	(600 pts.)
			B = 800-899 pts.
			C = 700-799 pts.
			D = 600-699 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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Course Review Wiki & Quizzes: Using the [Wiki function in Bb](#), we will complete weekly reviews of the course material. You will be randomly assigned to one of six groups of 15-20 students. I will post approximately 20 questions each week that cover readings from 1) Doob, 2) and other readings on Bb. Students will work with their groups to complete the weekly review and will (on their own) complete a reading review quiz each week. In order to receive full credit for the assignment, students must [answer at least one question each week](#). A more detailed description of the assignment will be posted 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***

Aug. 23 Introductions and Syllabus Review

Watch: Privilege Walk

WEEK 2 ***The Road to Social Inequality***

Aug. 28 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 3 ***Theories of Social Stratification and Structural Inequality***

Sep. 5 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. 11 Doob, Chapter 4: Foundation for Social Inequality: Concepts and Structures

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

WEEK 5***Globalization through Time And Space***

Sep. 18

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***

Sep. 25

Unit 1 Exam (on Bb)

UNIT 2**WEEK 7*****Upper Class or Superclass?***

Oct. 2

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. 9

Doob, Chapter 6: The Badly Besieged Middle Class

Film: *Inequality for All*

WEEK 9***The Working Class***

Oct. 16

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. 23 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***

Oct. 30 Unit 2 Exam (on Bb)

UNIT 3**WEEK 12*****Racism: A Persistent American Presence***

Nov. 6 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***Sexism and Gender Inequality***

Nov. 13 Thanksgiving Doob, Chapter 10: Women's Oppression: Sexism and Intersectionality

Readings on Bb

Grant, "Ads and Gender"

Green, "Wealthy Women and Marriage..."

WEEK 14***Inequality in the Workplace/Intersectionality***

Nov. 20 Thanksgiving

WEEK 15***Inequality in the Workplace/Intersectionality***

Nov. 27

Readings on Bb

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

Kitroeff, “Women and workforce”

“Gay and Transgender People Face High Rates of Workplace Discrimination and Harassment”/Burns and Krehely

FINALS***Unit 3 Exam***

Dec. 4

Exam (on Bb)