



**Sociology 3324: Social Inequality**  
**Monday/Wednesday Sec. 04, 2:00 – 3:20 CRN 20268**  
**College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Room 00210**  
**Spring 2018**  
**3 credit hours**

**Instructor:** Dr. R. Gallo  
**Office:** CHSS Suite 270  
**Phone:** 936-294-1512  
**E-mail:** jrg050@shsu.edu

**Office Hours:** M/W: 8:15-9:15 am

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Dennis Gilbert. (2014). *The American class in an age of Growing Inequality (9th Edition)*. SAGE Publication, Inc. ISBN: 9781452203416

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** It is the course intent to describes our class structure and shows how class affects our everyday lives, from the way we raise our children to the way we vote. The major theme running through the book is the increasing inequality in American society. The text describes the shift in the mid-1970s from an “Age of Shared Prosperity” to an “Age of Growing Inequality.” Using the most recent wage, income, and wealth statistics, and accounts of the shifting balance of class power in national politics, the text traces the widening disparities between the privileged classes and average Americans. The text repeatedly returns to the question, “Why is this happening?” A variety of economic, political, and social factors are examined, and the competing explanations of influential writers are critically assessed, concluding with the author’s synthesis of the book’s lessons about the power of class and the forces behind growing inequality.

**Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will:**

- 1) Have a working knowledge of basic inequality concepts and principles;
- 2) Perform minimal operations related to the empirical and scientific methods and theories of Sociology that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human;
- 3) Explore inequality behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events;
- 4) Examine inequality and the impact of these behaviors and interactions on individuals, society and culture; and
- 5) Think critically about inequality and social events.

**Skill Objectives:**

- 1) Critical Thinking Skills: Students will develop skills to apply different theories and methods to critically analyze social situations;
- 2) Communication Skills: Students will develop skills to develop, interpret and express sociological concepts and ideas in written and oral formats;
- 3) Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students will develop skills to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions; and
- 4) Social Responsibility: Students will develop skills to enhance their intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and engagement in regional, national, and global communities.

**COURSE EVALUATION METHODS:** This course will utilize the following instruments to determine a student’s grade:

**Exams** – Students will have four multiple-choice exams this semester. The four exams will consist of fifty questions worth two points each, totaling one hundred points per exam. Only in cases of emergencies will I give make-ups to students, and only on the day of the final exam immediately following the final. It is therefore imperative that students take exams on the scheduled dates. The information on all tests will come from the lectures, slideshows, and assigned readings. The professor will hold in-class review sessions in preparation for the exams. ***There will possibly be a chance for bonus points on the final exam.***

**Grade Scale:**

	<i>Points</i>	
Exam 1	100	350 – 400 = A
Exam 2	100	300 – 349 = B
Exam 3	100	250 – 299 = C
Final Exam	<u>100</u>	200 – 249 = D
Total	400	199 or below = F

**Exams Will Be On Line!!! You will have between 6:30 am and 2:00 pm to take the exam. You will have only 45 minutes to complete each exam. While the exams are open you must complete them in 45 minutes. I encourage you to take the exam as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute. Note: you should take your exam on a desktop or laptop because Blackboard generally does not support cell phones or some tablet platforms.**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY** Class attendance will be checked in every class. Unexcused class absences or unexcused late attendance will result in a deduction of points. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Please note, a student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examination or other assigned class work has not been missed.

Please note the following:

**4 absences you will be dropped one letter grade.**

**\*\* 8 or more absences, for whatever reason, unexcused will result in a grade of “F” \*\***

The professor would hope that all students in the School of Social Science respect the College and Sam Houston State University and make every effort to be in class and on time. Those students not in class are responsible for materials discussed during the missed session.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate. See the university academic dishonesty policy for further information at: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf)

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor at the very beginning of the semester in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Also see the following:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

**SSD Office Location:** Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building)

**Telephone:** 936-294-3512

**TDD:** 936-294-3786

**E-mail:** [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)

**Web Address:** [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability)

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. “Religious Holy Day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to “Religious Holy Days.” See

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

**CLASSROOM DECORUM AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** I expect all students to conduct themselves in a scholarly fashion and display impeccable decorum. Any student who cannot and will not abide by the code of conduct will be asked to leave class. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. See

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/100728.pdf)

**All cell phones, iPods, and any other device that may disturb the class must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. Students using laptops will be required to sit up front. Students who disrupt the class by texting, or surfing the web will automatically have 30 points deducted from his or her upcoming exam.**

**VISITORS TO THE CLASSROOM:** Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor is allowed to remain in the classroom.

#### **INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION(S):**

Students will complete a course/instructor evaluation near the end of the semester. The instructor will also ask students to do an informal, anonymous evaluation of the class. These evaluations are important for both the university community and instructor who continue to grow as a lecturer, teacher, and mentor.

#### **RESOURCES:**

SAM Center study skills series

[http://www.shsu.edu/~sam\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/)

Toll free at 866-364-5211, 281-657-6432 (Houston) or 936-294-4444 (Huntsville)

Fax 936-294-1149

**THE INSTRUCTOR RETAINS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE SYLLABUS AT ANY TIME.**

**CLASS SCHEDULE SPRING 2018**

**First Class**

**January 17 - 19**

Introduction to course/explanation of syllabus and overview of class expectations using the class text: Dennis Gilbert. (2014). *The American class in an age of Growing inequality*.

Ch. 1: Social Class in America

Ch. 2: Position and Prestige

Ch. 3: Social Class, Occupation, and Social Change

**February 5**

**Exam 1 will be on Chapters 1, 2, and 3.**

Ch. 4: Wealth and Income

Ch. 5: Socialization, Association, Lifestyles, and Values

Ch. 6: Social Mobility: The Societal Context

**Spring Break March 12 - 16**

**March 5**

**Exam 2 will be on Chapters 4,5, and 6.**

Ch. 7: Family, Education, and Career

Ch. 8: Elites, the Capitalist Class, and Political Power

Ch. 9: Class Consciousness and Class Conflict

**April 2**

**Exam 3 will be on Chapters 7,8, and 9.**

Ch. 10: The Poor, the Underclass, and Public Policy

Ch. 11: The American Class Structure and Growing Inequality

**April 30**

**Exam 4 will be on Chapters 10, and 11.**

**May 7 - 10**

**No Final Exam**