

**Social Inequality, SOCI 3324.05**  
**Sam Houston State University, Dept. of Sociology**  
**Spring 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Beth Shively	Meeting:
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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

Wiki Review Participation:	30%	(300 pts.)	A = 900-1000 pts.
Weekly Quizzes:	20%	(200 pts.)	B = 800-899 pts.
Unit Exams:	(15% + 15% + 20%) =	50% (500 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](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus).**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**Weekly Wiki Reviews:** Work with your group (using the Wiki function in Bb) to complete a weekly reading review. Each group member is responsible for 1-2 answer per week and will be graded individually for their participation.

**Weekly Quizzes:** Most weeks, a reading review quiz will be required. Use your group's completed wiki each week to help prepare for the quiz.

**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/Syllabus Review/The Road to Social Inequality***

Jan. 23      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**      ***Theories of Social Stratification and Structural Inequality***

Jan. 30      Doob, Chapter 2: In Marx's Wake: Theories of Social Stratification and Social Inequality

Review: Interlocking Directorates (Bb link)

NYT Interactive, College and Inequality

### **WEEK 3**      ***Foundations for Social Inequality***

Feb. 6      Doob, Chapter 4: Foundation for Social Inequality: Concepts and Structures

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

Illing, Baby Boomers and Inequality (on Bb)

**WEEK 4**      ***Globalization through Time And Space***

Feb. 13      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)

Luhby, Companies Don’t Share

**WEEK 5**      ***Unit 1 Exam Week***

Feb. 20      Unit 1 Exam

**UNIT 2**

**WEEK 6**      ***Upper Class or Superclass?***

Feb. 27      Doob, Chapter 5: Heading the Hierarchy: Upper Class or Superclass?

Lowery, “Hoarding the American Dream”

Heath, “Birth Lottery”

Baer, “How Rich People See the World”

Neate, “Super Rich Evade...”

**WEEK 7**      ***The Badly Besieged Middle Class/Inequality for All***

March 6      Doob, Chapter 6: The Badly Besieged Middle Class

Film: *Inequality for All*

**SPRING BREAK**

March 13      Spring Break: No Class

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**WEEK 8**      ***The Working Class***

March 20      Doob, Chapter 7: Working Class: Estranged from Entitlement

Bloom, "Minimum Wage"

Davidson, "Apprenticeships"

Dixon, "Wage Gap"

Pugh, "Stable Wages"

Mooney, Sleep and Inequality

**WEEK 9**

***American Poverty***

March 27 Doob, Chapter 8: American Poverty: The Dream Turned Nightmare

White, "Escaping Poverty"

Linthicum, "I Feel Forgotten"

Mathewson, "Poverty Changes the Brain"

Boustan et al, "Poverty and Disaster"

Williamson, "The Poor and Taxes"

Ura, Welfare and Poverty in Texas

**WEEK 10**

***Unit 2 Exam Week***

April 3 Unit 2 Exam

**UNIT 3**

**WEEK 12**

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

April 10 Doob, Chapter 9: Racism: A Persistent American Presence

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

Harriet, "The Pretrial Profit System"

Anderson, "Myth of Meritocracy"

Hong, Racism

Jan, Inequality and Hollywood

**WEEK 12**

***Sexism and Gender Inequality***

April 17 Doob, Chapter 10: Women's Oppression: Sexism and Intersectionality

Grant, "Ads and Gender"

Green, "Wealthy Women and Marriage..."

Lockman, Topic: Gender Inequality and Domestic Labor

**WEEK 13**      ***Inequality in the Workplace***

April 24 "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

Krawcheck, "The Cost of Devaluing Women"

Mercado, Different Treatment at Work

**WEEK 14**      ***Unit 3 Exam Week***

May 1 Unit 3 Exam

**FINALS**      ***Finals Week***

Dec. 4 Finals Week: No Class Meeting