

**SOCIAL INEQUALITY SOC 3324 - ONLINE
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2018**

Professor: Melissa Tackett-Gibson, PhD
Campus Office: CHSS 270G
Phone: 936-294-1798
Email: tackettgibson@shsu.edu
Office Hours: *Face-to-face and Virtual Office Hours:* Monday & Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and by appointment.
Course Reminders: Text the message @3324sp2018 to the number 81010.

Required Textbooks/ Readings:

Social Inequality and Social Stratification in U.S. Society

Author: Christopher B. Doob

Publisher: Pearson (2012)

Additional readings provided on Blackboard

You may be required to rent films during the course of the class. All can be found on YouTube, Amazon.com, Netflix, Hulu or iTunes. Some may be available free with Amazon Prime. Amazon Prime is available to students for a free trial and at a discounted price for an annual subscription.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the subject of inequality in the U.S. It reviews the various forms of social stratification and begins with an overview of the theoretical explanations for class formation and social inequality. We will then examine the various forms of inequality (race, class, and gender). We will come away with an understanding of the impact of stratification on groups within the population and the policies that either try to remediate or reinforce inequality in the U.S.

Course Objectives:

We will work together to make sure you walk away from this class:

1. with a good understanding of the theoretical explanations of social stratification
2. with a good understanding of impact of social inequality throughout history
3. with an understanding of the various forms of stratification and the impact of inequality of specific social groups
4. with the ability to critically assess the impact of current social policy that addresses social inequality and privilege in the U.S.

I assume we will also practice critical thinking in this course. “Thinking critically” does not mean that we simply *criticize* other people and ideas. It is a thinking process that allows you to consider multiple points of view, evaluate fact from opinion, validate evidence for an argument, formulate clear reasons for beliefs, and

reason with others. A critical thinker can clearly articulate an idea. He or she can also civilly entertain the ideas of others.

Course Participation Policy:

You are required to login to the class several times per week. I would suggest that you maintain a schedule of logging in routinely every week. For example, our assignments will be due on Saturdays for the most part, so you may want to check the site each Sunday, Wednesday and Friday to make sure that you do not miss any new material.

An online class differs from a face-to-face course in that you must pace yourself and complete your work independently. This is not as easy as it sounds. You must be organized and conscientious to complete the course successfully. We also do not have the flexibility to adjust the course during the semester. Therefore, course work including discussions and exams is RARELY accepted late. You will not be able to go back and complete missed work once a session concludes. Please keep this in mind as I only grant extensions in unusual circumstances (e.g., health emergencies, religious holidays, family emergencies, etc.).

If an emergency arises during the course, you should contact the Dean of Students' Office and complete the "Absence Notification Request Form" (available in person or online at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/absence.html>). The Dean of Students' Office will contact your instructors and confirm the cause of the absence. If you are physically unable to contact the office, a family member may submit the notification request.

Student Absences due to Religious Holidays:

Section 51.911(b) of 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

Disabled Student Policies and Service Information:

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 that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

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

Visitors in the Virtual Classroom:

Only registered students may “attend” class. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. **Students must complete the course independently without the assistance of others.** This policy may be waived for those students with disabilities with instructor notification as per the university’s disabled students policy.

Spam Mail & Netiquette

Please do not use the course email for general mail messages. Feel free though to use the email to ask questions related to the course schedule and content. Remember everyone in the class including the instructor and teaching assistants can and will read your posts. Please keep sensitive information private.

Students are expected to engage others in a respectful manner in all course communications. If a student engages in inappropriate conversation within the class environment, becomes hostile toward others students or instructors, or threatens the healthy dynamic of the online course in any way, the course instructor will pursue disciplinary action.

The University has a specific policy pertaining to classroom misconduct. The student guidelines can be found at <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

In this class conduct problems will be confronted in the following manner:

- An egregious offense will result in contact from the professor and a grade penalty.
- Repeated offenses will result in a meeting with the chair of the department
- Unresolved behavior problems will result in a grievance referral to the Dean of Students Office. Any penalties resulting from the referral will be noted on the student’s permanent transcript.

Other Course Policies:

Academic Honesty: *Students found cheating on ANY ASSIGNMENT (even extra credit or discussion posts) in the course will receive an “F” for the entire course. Cheating includes:*

- *allowing/hiring someone to complete any part of this course for you. This includes a discussion post, a paper, and extra credit assignment, or an exam, etc.*
- *asking for help during an exam*
- *forming exam taking groups. **Study groups that meet prior to the exam’s opening online are fine. Groups that meet after an exam opens are prohibited.***
- *passing your work off as someone else’s (taking a test or quiz for someone)*
- *copying answers from someone else’s exam or quiz*
- *letting someone copy your answers from an exam or quiz*

- *turning in written work OR ANY PART OF WRITTEN WORK that has been copied from another source*
- *working with another student on a written paper and using his or her words or ideas in your paper without credit.*
- *turning in any writing that is not IN YOUR OWN WORDS or correctly cited!*

This means if you copy someone else's work, an online article (Wikipedia) or fail correctly cite someone else's writing – you will fail. If you have questions about how to reference a source in your essay, please consult with the Writing Center (free at Farrington 111) or your professor.

The University's policy toward cheating and plagiarism can be found at the following website.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of not properly crediting your sources of information through the proper utilization of textual citations and a source list. If it is not a product of your own, original research, your own original idea, thought, or words, you must cite your source in your text. You must also include a works cited list. Failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty and will be dealt with as such.

Other Course Requirements:

Computer & Internet: Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the World Wide Web. You will be completing the class in a fully "on-line" format through the class's Blackboard portal. Some users may need to download special "plug-ins" to be able to use the discussion board and all students will be required to download and view *Microsoft Word documents*, *Excel* spreadsheets, and *PowerPoint* presentations. **Please be sure to contact the SHSU 24x7 helpdesk if you have any problems connecting or access materials or tools in this course (helpdesk@shsuonline.net or 1-877-870-9214)**

Grading Policy: Your performance in the class will be evaluated by three online multiple-choice exams, four quizzes and three critical thinking assignments. Each exam is worth 100 points, each quiz is worth 10 points, and each assignment is worth 20. Due dates are announced in the course outline.

The **multiple-choice exams** will be open for three days. You may take the exams **once**. **You will have four hours to take the exam once you begin. You must complete the exam in one sitting.** Multiple-choice exams, including the final, **are not cumulative**. I will provide study guides for the exams. Each exam will have 50 questions.

The **quizzes** will be worth 10 points and will have 5-10 questions each. The questions will be multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer. They will cover the material assigned for the given week. You can take each quiz once.

Remember: You CANNOT collaborate with other students on exams or quizzes. You may use all of the material provided in the course. Study groups must occur **PRIOR** to the opening of the exam.

The **critical thinking assignments** are designed to give you an opportunity to reflect on some of the course's concepts. They are all relatively short. I will be assigning one of three grades to your assignment: full credit, partial credit and no credit. The take home assignments will be graded (to the extent possible) according to the following rubric.

Credit	Comprehensiveness	Coherence	Reflection	Accuracy
Full (20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student's work addresses each of the of the assigned questions. • The student presents a complete discussion of the activity/material assigned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student's response is easily understood. • Written components of the assignment are clear and organized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response shows evidence of extensive thought on the topic. • The response makes a connection to a real life example. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a good deal of evidence that the student engaged with the required materials. • The student's response shows a correct understanding of the material assigned.
Partial (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student's work addresses some of the required questions. • The student submitted an incomplete activity/assignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student's response is relatively difficult to understand. • Written components of the assignment are somewhat disorganized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response shows evidence of some thought on the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is partial evidence that the student engaged with the required materials. • The student's response shows a significant mis-reading of the material.
No Credit (0 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assignment addressed none of the components of the question. • The student presents no discussion of the activity/material assigned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student's response cannot be understood. • Written components of the are unclear and completely disorganized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response shows no evidence of thought on the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence that the student engaged with the materials for the assignment. • There is no evidence that the student tried to understand the material.

The breakdown of exam values and the final grading scale follows:

Exam One	100 pts		A	360-400 pts.
Exam Two	100 pts		B	320-359 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts		C	280-319 pts.
Critical Thinking Assignments (3)	60 pts		D	240-279 pts.
Quizzes (4)	40 pts		F	<=239 pts.
	400 pts			

Students are responsible for the assigned readings and all lecture material covered in the class. Content from the readings and lectures will be included in the exams and discussions. Exams will be in a multiple-choice format and will be available online.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit assignments will be posted on Blackboard. See the Extra Credit tab to the left of our course page. You have multiple extra credit opportunities in the course. Most are very generous, and require various levels of effort.