



Sociology 3324: Social Inequality Sec 12
Location: Internet Class Meeting Times: No Class Meetings - All Internet - Based
College of Humanities & Social Sciences,
Spring 2018
3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. R. Gallo
Office: CHSS Suite 270Q

Phone: 936-294-1512
E-mail: jrg050@shsu.edu

Office Hours: I can be reached via email Monday-Friday from 10:00 -6:00.
I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them or you can set up an appointment with me online.

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 throughout 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, 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.
- 4) Social Responsibility: Students will develop skills to enhance their intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and engagement in regional, national, and global communities.

This is an internet course. Students are required to have a SHSU student identification card and a SHSU email account in order to enroll in the class. The SHSU email account is necessary to access SHSU Online, which is the software used for the course. The class is conducted completely over the SHSU Online system. SHSU Online is available in the orange box on the SHSU web page or under Academics - Distance Learning on the left hand side of the page. To log on, type your SHSU email address and your password. Once in SHSU Online or the online portal, click on SOC 3324 and you will enter the menu environment. Click on the item you wish to access necessary information.

Discussion Policy: You are expected to make a minimum of three substantive postings per session (with the initial posting put forth by 11:59pm [CST] on the first day of discussion of each week). Comments to two other student's posts are due on the following day of discussion by 11:59pm [CST]. Please note your initial post to the discussion questions must be a minimum of 150 words and, if they are not, you will not receive credit for that session's discussion. In a course, such as this, you should never leave your fellow classmate with a thought, question, or statement that does not force them/ you to think beyond their/your current position.

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

**See Discussion Rubric on the last page for grading details.*

EXAMS AND GRADING PLAN

There will be four multiple-choice exams (100 pts. each) during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the days preceding the exam. Your exams will be available under the Quiz and Exams tab on the days they are to be taken. **The four tests are on Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2, and Apr 30.** These are not comprehensive exams. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a make- up exam.

You will have between 6:30 am and 9:00 pm to take the exam. You will have only 45 minutes to complete each exam. While the exams are open, note that 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.

You can only take each exam once, so be sure to answer all of the questions before you submit it. Also, be sure to have a secure internet connection. Dial up/phone line connections are not secure and tend to kick you off the internet. In the event a student cannot take one of the exams at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Dr. Gallo prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a makeup exam. Students must provide viable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.

Remember make-up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's best interest to take regularly scheduled tests. Remember I do not have to let you make it up. **The discussions cannot be made up once they have closed. I do not drop the lowest test grade, each test is equally weighted and I do not use an average to get your final grade, but rather it will be based on the total number of points you have earned for the semester.**

Discussions: At ten points throughout the semester, students will be asked to participate in discussions (**again, you are responsible for 10 discussions**). Each discussion is worth 20 points. Discussions will be open for two days so that students with a busy schedule will have ample time to participate. In order to do well in discussions, students will need to be familiar with the readings/notes prior to participating.

Exam #1 100 points

Exam #2 100 points

Exam #3 100 points

Exam #4 100 points

Discussions are worth a total of 200 points

Each discussion is worth up to 20 points.

Final grades will be based on the total number of points you have earned for the semester.

551 & Up = A

400 - 550 = B

300 - 399 = C

200 - 299 = D

199 or below = F

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.

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.

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."

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/








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

Unit	Week	Dates (Mon - Sun)	Topic	Activities/ Assignments
Unit 1	Week 1	01/17-20 Short week due to the semester starting on a Wednesday	Social Class in America	Assignment 1: Read chapter 1, Discussion Forum 1: Initial Post Thursday, 1/18 Replies Friday, 1/19  Exam 1 will cover chapters 1,2, and 3.  Study Guide for first exam opens 01/17 at 6:30am and closes 002/04 at 11:59pm
Unit 2	Week 2	01/21-27	Position and Prestige	Assignment 2: Read chapter 2, Discussion Forum 2: Initial Post Tuesday, 1/23 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 1/24 at 11:59pm
Unit 3	Week 3	01/28-2/03	Social Class, Occupation, and Social Change	Assignment 3: Read chapter 3, Discussion Forum 3: Initial Post Tuesday, 1/30 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 1/31 at 11:59pm
Unit 4	Week 4	02/04-10	Wealth and Income	Assignment 4: Read chapter 4, Discussion Forum 4: Initial Post Tuesday, 2/06 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 2/07 at 11:59pm  Exam 1 opens 02/05 at 6:30am and closes at 9pm  Exam 2 will cover chapters 4,5, and 6.  Study Guide for second exam opens 02/06 at 6:30am and closes 03/04 at 11:59pm
Unit 5	Week 5	02/11-17	Association, Lifestyles, and Values	Assignment 5: Read chapter 5, Discussion Forum 5: Initial Post Tuesday, 02/13 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 02/14 at 11:59pm
Unit 6	Week 6	02/18-24	The Social Context	Assignment 6: Read chapter 6, Discussion Forum 6: Initial Post Tuesday, 02/20 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 02/21 at 11:59pm
Unit 7	Week 7	02/25-3/03	Family, Education, and Career	Assignment 7: Read chapter 7, Discussion Forum 7: Initial Post Tuesday, 02/27 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 02/28 at 11:59pm
Unit 8	Week 8	03/04-10	Elites, the Capitalist Class, and Political Power	Assignment 8: Read chapter 8, Discussion Forum 8: Initial Post Tuesday, 03/06 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 03/07 at 11:59pm

Unit 8 Contin.				 Exam 2 opens 03/05 at 6:30am and closes at 9pm  Exam 3 will cover chapters 7,8, and 9.  Study Guide for third exam opens 03/06 at 6:30am and closes 04/01 at 11:59pm
Unit 9	Week 9	03/18-24	Class Consciousness and Class Conflict	Assignment 9: Read chapter 9 Discussion Forum 9: Initial Post Tuesday, 03/20 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 03/21 at 11:59pm
Unit 10	Week 10/11	03/25-04/14	The Poor, Underclass, and Public Policy	Assignment 10: Read chapter 10, Discussion Forum 10: Initial Post Tuesday, 03/27 at 6:30am Replies Wednesday, 03/28 at 11:59pm  Exam 3 opens 04/02 at 6:30am and closes at 9pm  Exam 4 will cover chapters 10 and 11.  Study Guide for fourth exam opens 04/03 at 6:30am and closes 04/29 at 11:59pm
Unit 11	Week 12/13	04/15-4/29	The American Class Structure and Growing Economy	Assignment 11: Read chapter 11
	Last Week	4/30	Last Exam	 Exam 4 opens 4/30 at 6:30am and closes at 9pm

No Final Exam

Online Grading Rubric for Discussion Board

	Below Expectations	Proficient	Exceptional
Timeliness & Contributions	<p>Points 0 (0%)</p> <p>Posts not within the specified date range.</p>	<p>Points 2.5 (12.5%)</p> <p>Posts on time, but doesn't respond to two peer posts.</p>	<p>Points 5 (25%)</p> <p>Posts on time and responds to at least two peer posts.</p>
Grammar & Spelling	<p>Points 0 (0%)</p> <p>Poor spelling and grammar; hard to read; unprofessional.</p>	<p>Points 2.5 (12.5%)</p> <p>Less than 3 errors in spelling and grammar; message is clear.</p>	<p>Points 5 (25%)</p> <p>Grammatically correct; rare misspellings; easy to read, professional.</p>
Relevance	<p>Points 0 (0%)</p> <p>Posts do not relate to the discussion; not supported by references; rehashes or summarizes other postings; unclear connection to topic; minimal expression of opinions or ideas.</p>	<p>Points 2.5 (12.5%)</p> <p>Posts are short and do not further the discussion; occasional lack of connection to the topic; limited citations.</p>	<p>Points 5 (25%)</p> <p>Posts are related to assigned topic; at least one citation; obvious connection to topic.</p>
Community	<p>Points 0 (0%)</p> <p>Argumentative or abrasive. No peer interaction.</p>	<p>Points 2.5 (12.5%)</p> <p>Shows effort to be involved with group; interacts with others.</p>	<p>Points 5 (25%)</p> <p>Motivates discussion; creative; uses tact when disagreeing; acknowledges peer contributions; high quality of interaction.</p>

**Scores can be in any combination of below expectations, proficient and exceptional. Your goal is to score for the maximum of 20 POINTS IN THE EXCEPTIONAL CATEGORY.*