

Social Inequality, SOCI 3324.06
Sam Houston State University, Dept. of Sociology
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Beth Shively	Meeting: CHSS 226, 12:30-1:50
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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

Attendance & Participation:	10%	(100 pts.)	A = 900-1000 pts.
Capital Autobiography:	10%	(100 pts.)	B = 800-899 pts.
Welfare Myth Buster:	10%	(100 pts.)	C = 700-799 pts.
Policy Brief:	10%	(100 pts.)	D = 600-699 pts.
In-Class Writing:	20%	(200 pts.)	F = fewer than 600 pts.
Unit Exams:	(10% + 15% + 15%) =	40% (400 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

Short Writing Assignments: Three short writing assignments will be due over the course of the semester. Assignment descriptions will be available on Bb.

In-Class Writing: We will frequently take time in class to do brief writing assignments to help engage with the course readings. Students must be in attendance to complete in-class writings. No make-ups will be given, but students may miss up to two in-class writings with no penalty.

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***

Jan. 18 Introductions and Syllabus Review

Watch: Privilege Walk

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

Jan. 23 Doob, Chapter 1: The Road to Social Inequality: A Conceptual Introduction

Jan. 25 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***

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

Feb. 1 Review: Interlocking Directorates (Bb link)

NYT Interactive, College and Inequality

WEEK 4 ***Foundations for Social Inequality***

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

Feb. 8 Cottle, "Are the Megadonors Distorting American Society?" (on Bb)

Illing, Baby Boomers and Inequality (on Bb)

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

Feb. 13 Doob, Chapter 3: Repeat Performance: Globalization Through Time and Space

Feb. 15 **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 6 ***Unit 1 Exam Week***

Feb. 20 Unit 1 Exam Review

Due in Class: Capital Autobiography

Feb. 22 Unit 1 Exam (on Bb)

UNIT 2

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

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

March 1 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***

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

March 8 Film: *Inequality for All*

SPRING BREAK

March 13 Spring Break: No Class

March 15_ Spring Break: No Class

WEEK 9 ***The Working Class***

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

March 22 Bloom, "Minimum Wage"

Davidson, "Apprenticeships"

Dixon, "Wage Gap"

Pugh, "Stable Wages"

Mooney, Sleep and Inequality

WEEK 10 ***American Poverty***

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

March 29 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 11 ***Unit 2 Exam Week***

April 3 Unit 2 Exam Review

Due in Class: Myth Busters Assignment

April 5 Unit 2 Exam (on Bb)

UNIT 3

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

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

April 12	Feagin, <i>"The Myth of the Model Minority: Asian Americans Facing Racism"</i> /Rosalind S. Chou
	Harriet, "The Pretrial Profit System"
	Anderson, "Myth of Meritocracy"
	Hong, Racism
	Jan, Inequality and Hollywood
<u>WEEK 13</u>	<i>Sexism and Gender Inequality</i>
April 17	Doob, Chapter 10: Women's Oppression: Sexism and Intersectionality
April 19	Grant, "Ads and Gender"
	Green, "Wealthy Women and Marriage..."
	Lockman, Topic: Gender Inequality and Domestic Labor
<u>WEEK 14</u>	<i>Inequality in the Workplace</i>
April 24	"Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination"/Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan
April 26	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
<u>WEEK 14</u>	<i>Unit 3 Exam Week</i>
May 1	Unit 3 Exam Review
	Due in Class: Policy Brief
May 3	Unit 3 Exam (on Bb)
<u>FINALS</u>	<i>Finals Week</i>
Dec. 4	Finals Week