UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Soc 260 A1 (59990)
Fall 2015

Instructor: Stephen Speake, MA
Location: ESB 3-27 Time: TR 1100 – 1220 hrs
Office: HM Tory 4-7
Phone: TBA
Email: sspeake@ualberta.ca
Office Hours: half hour after each class

Course information is available at eClass: https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/

ALL students are encouraged to contact me if they have questions about the course materials, exams or assignments.

Course Prerequisites: Soc 100 or 300

Course Description
Inequality and stratification are contested in sociology as well as within Canadian society. This course introduces a variety of sociological perspectives for conceptualizing and analyzing inequality and social stratification in a Canadian and North American context. Throughout the course, we will attempt to understand its’ main processes and structures at the local and national levels. We will do this by looking at how and what inequalities produced and reproduced through economic, social, and political forms. Issues for examination include: class, sex, racism, poverty, work, the structures of wealth accumulation, national policies, and the role of the state.

Course Objectives
✓ To become thoroughly familiar with the ideas, concepts, found in the course material.
✓ To better understand the social determinants of inequality and social stratification.
✓ To better understand Canadian society through the lens of inequality.
✓ To examine the extent and trends in inequality and stratification.

Required Texts

Teaching Format
The course format will consist of lectures, class discussions, and video(s). It is the responsibility of the student to attend classes, take notes, read texts, and submit assignments on time.

THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT PROVIDE LECTURE MATERIALS OR NOTES TO ANY STUDENT, either for the purposes of supplementing personal notes or for those who miss classes; nor will that information be on reserve in the Library or on the Internet. I share my slides as a way to supplement, not replace, note-taking in class. If a student misses a lecture, they should seek to copy lecture notes from their classmates. If a student misses the showing of any audio/visual material, it is the
responsibility of the student to arrange to view that material by going to the library, finding it online or renting the video from local rental stores.

Lectures may not follow or summarise the readings, though they may often overlap. As a University student in the Arts, you are expected to read and learn from your own studies outside the classroom. The goal is to have the lectures, class discussions and readings complement each other, and to use class time to expand on specific ideas mentioned in the texts or any other material or concepts the instructor thinks important.

**Grade Evaluation**

There will be three written assignments, two midterms, and a final exam in this course. All the exams assume you have knowledge of readings, lectures and videos presented in class.

**Format of Exams**

Each midterm will consist of some combination of multiple choice, definitions, lists, match, short answer, true or false, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. Students will have 80 minutes to write each of the midterm exams in class on the day the exam is scheduled.

Final Exam: The final exam will follow the same format as the midterms. However, the final exam is cumulative and questions will be drawn from the lecture and reading material used throughout the course. Students will have two hours to write the final exam.

**Written Assignments**

The purpose of written assignments is to demonstrate your ability to reflect critically on an issue. Part of that reflection means analysing, explaining, comparing, and thinking critically about your topic. Written assignments have to both describe and explain a problem or issue.

Your written work must be an organised and informed response to a news story or set of readings. It is **NOT** just a summary. It is also **NOT** just an expression of your opinions. The essay must demonstrate that you have read the course material and that you have reflected on that material in a thoughtful manner.

The first two assignments must analyse, discuss, explain and reflect on a topic coming from each of the two Parts of the textbook. Therefore, one assignment will examine the issue of class, gender, age, or agency coming from Part I of the textbook. The second will likewise draw on Part II of the textbook and examine one of the following: work, education, health or the state. You should identify the date the issue you choose to write on was discussed in class and very briefly summarise in one or two sentences that discussion. Then you should use the textbook material to carry out your analysis. You may also use other sources or academic material over and above the textbook. See the course “Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings” section to see when these assignments are due.

The third written assignment will examine a news story of your choice. It will examine a social movement, report on a particular activist, exam a law or government policy (like labour laws and practices), or examine how business contributes to inequality. Your aim should be to explain how inequality and stratification are structurally created and reproduced in society. Your written work will include a printed copy of the story you are using for the basis of your analysis and a bibliography. It is due before 4 December 2015.
Grading criteria

Your mark will be based on a combination of how well you organise your response to the readings, the quality and depth of your analysis, the quality of expression, and the ability to organise your ideas and arguments. This includes grammar and spelling. A more detailed set of criteria can be found on eClass.

Students may not submit any written work via facsimile or email. Assignments must be submitted in class the day it is due. Students will not be allowed to replace or supplement the scheduled assignments with alternative or additional work.

Students wishing to challenge their essay grade must present substantive reasons for their disagreement. A desire for a higher grade is not a compelling reason to challenge a given grade.

Format for Written Assignments

All written assignments will be written on letter size paper using 2.54cm (1”) margins. Font must be Times New Roman, 11 or 12 pt., 1.5 or double spaced, and must fall within the 1 to 1.5 page limit.

No title page is necessary, although all assignments must include the student’s name, student ID#, and the course name in the header. Assignment length does not include bibliography or title page (if included).

APA is the preferred format for references and citations (see the Guide for Writing an Academic Essay on eClass for examples of how to use the format).

Policy for Late Assignments

Written assignments submitted after class on the due date will have 10% deducted per business day. No assignments will be accepted after one week of the initial due date. Assignments not submitted before this deadline will receive a grade of zero. Extensions will only be considered for those who provide supporting documentation.

Sources for Writing Academic Papers

Good writing skills are expected in a 200 level university course. For students who have difficulty with writing, they will need to consult some writing resources. For example:


Centre 4 Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall). Tel. 780-492-2639 Offers free, one-on-one writing support to all students with any type of assignment. Check on-line at www.c4w.ualberta.ca

Grade Criterion

Grades will be largely determined based on absolute measure: i.e. the raw score for each assignment will be converted into a percentage score based on the weight of the assignment. The cumulative
percentage score will be converted into a final grade as shown in the following table; however, the instructor reserves the right to adjust final grades based on participation in the course, as demonstrated both in the classroom and through the student’s written work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>76-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>72-75</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>68-71</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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### Important Dates

**Written Assignments**  
*October 29, 2015*  
20%

*December 3, 2015*

*December 3, 2015*

**Midterm 1**  
*October 6, 2015*  
25%

**Midterm 2**  
*November 2, 2015*  
25%

**Final Exam**  
*TBA*  
30%*

* WARNING: Students must verify the date, time and location on Bear Tracks.

### Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings

This is a very tentative schedule. We will spend more time of some chapters and less on others. Some material may have to be eliminated depending on the needs and pace of the course. Any changes will be announced in class throughout the term. It is the student’s responsibility to make themselves aware of those changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 3, 8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 10, 15</td>
<td>Class and Inequality</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 17, 22</td>
<td>Gender and Inequality</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Sep 24, 29</td>
<td>Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oct 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 1, 8</td>
<td>Actors and Agency/CAGE</td>
<td>Chapter 6 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>Oct 20, 22</td>
<td>Families and domestic labour</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Oct 27, 29</td>
<td>Paid Work</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. Regarding absences from term exams that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections §23.3 of the University Calendar. If you miss a mid-term exam, notify your instructor by email within two working days, or as soon as you are able to, in regards to the circumstance underlying the absence.

Approval for an excused absence is AT THE DISCRETION of the instructor (See §23.3(1)). Excused absences are not automatic, and, in the case of term work and midterm exams, are at the discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documentation. For a medical illness, students may provide:

- University of Alberta Medical Statement signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but must be accepted in lieu of other documents)
- A Medical Declaration Form for Students (for Faculty of Arts students)
- A Statutory Declaration (for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from their home faculty of the Office of the Registrar).

For all other cases, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation to the situation. This could include the following:

- For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
- For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department about appropriate documents

Students will not be permitted to rewrite or do ‘make up’ exams for missed mid-term exams. If a student misses a mid-term due to an excused absence, the same grade earned on the final exam mark will then also be used as the missed mid-term mark in the calculation of the final grade. Lack of notice and/or suitable documentation will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam.

The Instructor cannot grant a deferral for a missed final exam. If you miss the final exam for any reason, the student must get approval to write a deferred exam from their respective Faculty. Application for a deferred exam must be made within two working days from the missed exam date, or as soon as the student is able to, in regards to the circumstance underlying the absence. If a student is approved by their Faculty to write a deferred final exam, that exam must be written on 16 January, 2016 at 0900 hrs in BUS 1 - 6.

A deferred final examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work, as stated in §23.3(2)c of the Calendar.
Academic Integrity

Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).” In this course, the instructor WILL NOT PERMIT or give consent to any audio or visual recordings of the lectures.

Plagiarism and Cheating

All students should consult the Office of Student Judicial Affairs website (http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produced very dubious and unreliable “translations. Students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violated the code of student conduct with dire consequences. An Instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty.

A copy of “Notice to Instructors regarding Plagiarism and Cheating (Cheatsheet)” is also available at http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/StudentAppeals?dontCheatsheet.aspx.

For further information about Academic Integrity and to access the Academic Integrity Handbook for students, visit the Office of Student Judicial Affairs website at http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/.

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all student, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.
For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy, you may contact the student ombudservice: http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual.