

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
Fall 2013-2014

SOC2239 - 530
Social Inequality
Wednesday 6:30-9:30pm, BR 303

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Course Description

A study of the causes and consequences of the unequal distribution of prestige, power and wealth and of the ideologies used to defend and criticize inequality. Different societies are examined but emphasis is on the development and contemporary structure of the Canadian class system.

Course Overview

This course examines sociological approaches to social inequality with special attention to issues of class, gender, race and ethnicity. The course will deal mainly with North America, but will also attempt to connect this continent with global issues. Initially the course will overview major social theories of inequality, then will move to instances of inequality, presented in case studies and in examples drawn from Canadian literature. We will also investigate possible strategies of resistance and social change to eradicate systemic social inequality.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- define the basic sociological concepts of social inequality
- address how the different forms of inequality coalesce with each other and often reinforce each other;
- understand historical changes in social stratification, social class, and social inequality, particularly in North America;
- assess and compare the leading theories in the field of social inequality;
- critique the usefulness of the leading theories of social inequality in explaining the nature and extent of social inequality in contemporary North American societies; and
- think creatively of effective ways of reducing inequality in Canada and globally.

Prerequisites - 1.0 from Sociology [1020](#), [1021E](#), [1025A/B](#), [1026F/G](#), [1027A/B](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE: *You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the requisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enrol in this course, you will be removed from this*

course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Required Texts

Julie McMullin. 2010. Understanding Social Inequality, Second Edition. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Edward, Grabb and Neil Guppy (eds.). 2009, Social Inequality in Canada; Patterns, Problems, and Policies. Fifth Edition. Toronto: Pearson/ Prentice Hall.

Additional supplemental readings may be assigned. These readings will be uploaded on Sakai.

Evaluation

Exam #1	20%
Critical Reflection	10%
Exam #2	25%
Final Exam	30%
Mini Presentation	5%
Class Participation	10%

Examinations

The exams are non-cumulative. The exams will be made up of multiple choice, true/false and short/long answer questions. You will be tested on materials covered in the textbook, assigned readings, lecture slides and online class discussions. Each exam is scheduled for 3 hours in length.

Critical Reflection

The critical reflection will be a 6-8 page analytic response focusing on a specific topic covered in the course. The instructor will provide a choice of topics. Further details to be provided in class.

Mini Presentation

Each student will be required to conduct one mini presentation. The brief presentation will require students to describe an issue that deals with the topic of social inequality presented by a media source. Further information to be provided class.

Course Schedule

*M: McMullin Text;

*G&G: Grabb & Guppy Text

*SR: Supplemental Readings available on Sakai

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept 11	Introduction	
Sept 18	The Study of Social Inequality	M: Ch. 1 G&G: Ch. 1
Sept 25	Classical Theories of Social Inequality	SR: Sakai
Oct 2	Classical Theories of Social Inequality	
Oct 9	Contemporary Theories of Social Inequality	SR: Sakai
Oct 16	Contemporary Theories of Social Inequality	
Oct 23	Intersectional Theorizing Review	
Oct 30	EXAM 1	
Nov 6	Class & Inequality	M: Ch. 2 G&G: Ch. 1-7, 25
Nov 13	Gender & Inequality	M: Ch. 3 G&G: Ch 13-15
Nov 20	Gender & Inequality	
Nov 27	Race & Ethnicity	M: Ch. 4 G&G: Ch. 16-19
Dec 4	Race & Ethnicity	
Jan 8	Age & Inequality	M: Ch. 5 G&G: Ch. 20-21
Jan 15	Family & Inequality	M: Ch. 8
Jan 22	EXAM 2	
Jan 29	Occupation & Inequality	M: Ch 9 G&G: Ch. 8-9
Feb 5	Education & Inequality	M: Ch. 10 G&G: Ch. 10-12. 28

Feb 12	Sexuality & Inequality	SR: Sakai
Feb 19	READING WEEK	
Feb 26	Criminal Justice System & Inequality	G&G: Ch. 24 SR: Sakai
Mar 5	Religion & Inequality	SR: Sakai
Mar 12	Health & Inequality	M: Ch. 11 G&G: Ch. 23
Mar 19	Social Movements	G&G: Ch. 26-27
Mar 26	Global Inequality	
Apr 2	Wrap Up	M: Ch. 13

Grade Guidelines

Department of Sociology guidelines require a particular course grade distribution, which may require curving or otherwise adjusting your course grade in order to meet this requirement. As much as possible, your earned course grade will be the grade you receive. **For 2200-level courses, the course mean is to be between a 66-70%, and there are to be more Bs than As.**

Laptop Policy

Laptops are generally prohibited in this course. However, if you believe that your academic performance will be unduly disadvantaged by not being able to use a laptop and can provide a compelling reason for this, please come discuss the matter with me. All students granted leave to use a laptop in class will be required to sit in the last row so as not to distract others.

Mobile Phone Policy

All phones are to be shut off at the start of class, except if you have a dire emergency that you are having to attend to (such as an immediate family member's illness or hospitalization, or your spouse's/domestic partner's impending delivery), in which case you need to let me know at the start of class. **Text messaging is absolutely prohibited during class times.**

Communications

Email is my preferred method of contact. It should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in "text message" format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading should read the course title. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Expect a response within 24-48 hours, excluding weekend.

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the

Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate