

Social Inequality (Soc 3640)

University of Wyoming
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Karen Straight

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 – 10:30 am remote and by arrangement.

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Please Note: Be sure to print out a new syllabus within the online class on the first day. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus up until the first day of class.

Welcome to class! I will be your instructor for this course. I greatly enjoy teaching online, and I look forward to your participation. Social Inequality is an exciting course as we will cover many topics that are relevant to all of us. If you have questions, I am here to be of help. Please email me within the class system.



Course Readings:

Jenny Stuber.2015. *Exploring Inequality: A Sociological Approach*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional articles as assigned. See our course modules within the class.

Description:

We will examine intertwining constructs of difference through their effects on the social and economic experiences of groups or persons in the US and cross-culturally. Aspects of difference to be studied will include race, gender, class, sexual orientation, disability, language, and place. We will analyze how these markers of difference shape individuals' personal identities and access to institutional settings. Ideologies and achievements of diverse groups will be compared. We will look at opportunities to resist discrimination and bring about positive social change. This course will have a national and international focus.

Learning Outcomes:

- enhance communication skills through on-line class discussion and written papers.
- use sociological concepts and perspective to critically examine key concepts such as race, gender, disability, nationality, and class.

- compare and contrast the experiences of diverse communities to come to a better understanding of how social statuses become entangled in the economic class structure as markers for placement, access, and opportunity as groups are in conflict for power, privilege, property and prestige.
- critically examine our own ethnocentrism as we learn about other ways of life and belief systems.
- examine sociological studies and apply sociological research methods. The concept of objectivity will be explored and debated. Students will utilize methods of observation and interviews to gain information and understanding about other ways of life. Based upon their own reflection and critical analysis, students will come to important conclusions concerning values, diversity, and cultural appreciation.

Evaluation:

It is my strong desire to generate assignments, activities, and discussions that encourage reflection, epiphanies, self-exploration, and connections with others. To that end, you will receive points for demonstrating your knowledge of reading and lectures, insight and analysis during discussion, active research, and engagement with people of backgrounds different from your own.

Points will be distributed as follows:

Discussion Activities/Assignments.....	225 Points
You are assigned to a group. To view your group, go to People on the Course Menu within the class. You will complete various assignments. You will submit your work to the group discussion board, and discuss your findings. Nine of the discussion assignments assignments are worth 20 points each. Your write-up of your Mobility Interview is worth 40 points. Your response to our final discussion is worth 5 points.	
Three exams (100 points each).....	300 Points
Civil Rights Virtual Tour.....	32
Total Points Possible.....	557

A normal curve will be applied to the total points possible.

A	93-100%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%

C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	60-66.99%
F	<59.99%

C+	77-79.99%
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Group Discussion:

Participation in discussion is a critical aspect of this class. Through group discussion we will learn a great deal about others, ourselves, and different ways to perceive the world around us. When you are caught of guard by another person's insight or perspective on an issue, you are forced to examine your own opinions, assumptions, and values. This is invaluable to the learning process. Give our discussions time and attention. Demonstrate a willingness to hear others' ideas, play with new ideas, and show respect across our differences and similarities. If you do, you will come away from this course with new and worthwhile knowledge. *For each discussion, you will post responses to the assignment topic on the Wednesday of the week assigned, and reply to two other posts by Sunday of that week unless otherwise indicated in the assignment directions.* Because the point of the discussions is to encourage interaction, late responses will NOT receive points. I will look for definite qualities in evaluating your work. Some expectations include the following:

1. The development of independent thinking.
2. Utilization and specific references to course materials.
3. A willingness to play with new ideas — yours and others.
4. The development of competence at learning from others and integrating those ideas which challenge, support or simply stimulate your thinking into your work.
5. The writing of a well-formulated response. Be deliberate and reflective in your use of language.
6. The exploration of complicated ideas, even if you find you cannot come to a neat and easy conclusion.
7. The development of competence in writing that summarizes, analyzes and argues.

Exams:

We will have three exams during the course of the term. Exams will be available during a set period of time. Once you enter the exam, you must complete it within the time period indicated. All assignments are individual assignments. Any unauthorized collaboration is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Virtual Web Tours:

You will complete one virtual tour during this class. The virtual tour will take you to a variety of web sites to view data, read reports and/or watch films. You may enter the virtual tour as frequently as you wish until the due date. Be sure to save your answers as you go. **Once you are finished, you must click submit.** If you do not click submit, you will not be able to review your results correctly.

In a course such as this, it is important for us to be able to see and hear movements in action. Plan ahead. Check out the virtual tours ahead of time

Submission of Assignments:

All assignments are due within the class system. Do not email assignments. Be sure to check you submitted your assignment correctly. Failure to submit appropriately is the same thing as not submitting.

Late Policy:

Participation in discussion must take place during the assigned week. Participation outside of the assigned week will not count towards your participation grade. You must complete virtual tours, papers, and exams by the indicated due date. Make-ups will not be provided outside of these periods. Please be aware that if you miss assignments for health reasons, I will refer you to Students Services. Student Services may review your documentation, and they will let me know what kinds of extensions are appropriate. For student privacy reasons, I will not screen medical documentation. Technical difficulties will not be an unacceptable reason for submitting the paper late. Please plan in advance and make sure you understand how to submit assignments.

Students with Learning Disabilities:

If you have physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability, to Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall. Their phone number is 307-766-6189.

Academic Honesty:

UW Regulation 6-802. (Suggested language: The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated [from the UW General Bulletin]. Teachers and students should report suspected violations of standards of academic honesty to the instructor, department head, or dean. Other University regulations can be found at: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/legal/universityregulations.htm>)

Technical Assistance:

Are you new to the online environment? You may email the Help Desk at helpdesk@ecampus.uwyo.edu or phone them at 1-800-448-7801. The Canvas Support Line is very helpful. You may reach Canvas Support at 855-778-9971. There is a “Help” icon in the menu of our class as well.

Communication:

Please be aware that I participate in this class Monday through Friday. I will respond to emails and phone calls during normal business hours Monday through Friday. If you receive a response to an email on the weekends, please realize it is an exception. Important emails will be sent to your University of Wyoming email account. It is your responsibility to check class and university email regularly.

Schedule of Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Readings* from Class Text	Activity/Discussion*	Exam/Assignment
<p>Unit 1 Constructing Differences 8/29 – 9/9 Stuber Chapter 1</p> <p>***For each unit, you are also accountable for reviewing the items posted in our online course unit for the week.</p>	<p>Discussion: Introductions – not graded, but required. Due 8/31.</p> <p>Unit One Discussion Your response to the assignment is due Wednesday, 9/5. Reply to two more post is due Sunday, 9/9.</p> <p>***We will follow this Wednesday/Sunday cycle throughout the term unless otherwise indicated.</p>	
<p>Unit 2 Class and Inequality 9/10 – 9/16</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	

Stuber Chapters 5		
Unit 3 Social Mobility 9/17 – 9/23 Stuber Chapter 9	Discussion	
Unit 4 Social Construction of Race and Ethnicity 9/24 – 9/30 Stuber Chapter Four and Eight	Discussion	
Unit 5 Segregation and Mobility 10/1 – 10/7 Chapter 14		Exam One
Unit 6 Education and Inequality 10/9 – 10/14 Stuber Chapter 12	Discussion	
Unit 7 10/15 – 10/21 Education Continued	Discussion	
Unit 8 Gender and Inequality 10/22 – 10/28 Stuber Chapters 2 and 7	Discussion	
Unit 9 Gender Inequality Continued 10/29 -114		Exam Two

Stuber Chapter 13		
Unit 10 Sexuality and Inequality 11/5 – 11/11 Stuber Chapter 3	Discussion	
Unit 11 Disabilities and Inequality 11/13 – 11/18 Stuber Chapter 6	Discussion	
Unit 12 Social Change 11/19 – 11/20 – 11/26 – 12/2		Civil Rights Virtual Tour
Unit 13 Social Change Continued 12/3 – 12/9	Discussion	Exam Three
Unit 14 Final Thoughts 12/10	Discussion Due 12/10 Replies to peers are not required.	