



The University of Western Ontario

Sociology 2228A: Social Inequality in Canada UWO, Section 001

Fall 2018

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Class Session:
Thursdays, 10:30 to 1:20 p.m., SSC 2020

Office Hours:
Thursdays 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Course Description:

Social inequality is the 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. This course focuses on social inequality within Canadian society and its institutions.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 2239.

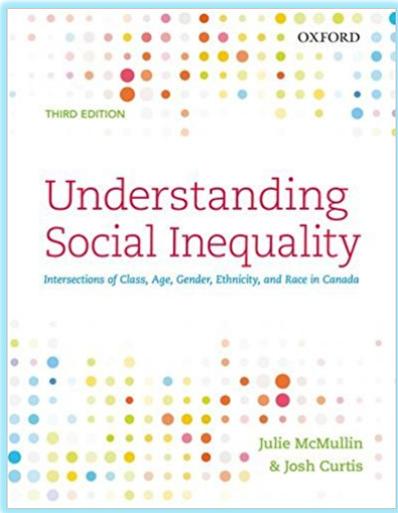
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped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

Learning Outcomes:

When students have successfully completed this course, they should be able to:

- ✓ **To develop an appreciation why inequality matters**
- ✓ **To identify and discuss the main bases of inequality within society: race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, disability, age, etc.**
- ✓ **To develop an understanding of sociological theories of inequality and to be able to describe and apply them to instances of inequality within society.**
- ✓ **To develop an understanding of the interconnections of the different bases of inequality and their overlapping roles in social inequality**
- ✓ **To explore the various outcomes of inequality within particular institutional settings, for example, within families, work and the economy, health, education, the state, etc. in Canada.**

Required Text(s):



Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada, 3rd Edition by Julie McMullin and Josh Curtis, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will be posted on the OWL site.

Evaluation:

<i>Class participation</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Group projects</i>	<i>20% (see details on the OWL class site)</i>
<i>Mid-Term Exam</i>	<i>35% October 25</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>35% per UWO exam schedule</i>

Class Participation:

Participation is an important facet in the learning process. It helps students digest new concepts, apply those concepts to real world situations, and interject their own perspectives on the topic under discussion. For this reason, a significant component of your evaluation is tied to class participation. Participation will be based on a combination of attendance and class participation. Attendance alone, however, is not enough to achieve an above average mark. You will also be evaluated on your level of participation in group and class discussions as well as the relevance and quality of your participation.

On those occasions in which you miss class because of illness or other valid reasons, you may still earn participation credit for those absences by writing a response to an instructor selected discussion question (one double spaced page per hour of class time missed). It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me on the first day you return to class after an absence or you forfeit the right to make up for your absence. The response will be due within one week of your return. If you miss more than 50% of class sessions without offsetting participation credits, your participation mark will be zero (0).

Because class participation is an important component of your evaluation it is important to create a safe environment for everyone to participate. So the first rule is: people are sacred, ideas are not. This means that we need to be respectful of each other and give each other space to participate. In line with this, if you are bringing a cell phone to class, make sure that it is turned off before coming in to class.

Group Projects:

The details of the group project will be posted on the OWL site for the course.

Exams:

The exams for this class will be a combination of multiple choice (70% of the exam grade) and essay (30% of the exam grade). Computer-marked multiple choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. No electronic devices will be allowed during exams.

How to Contact Me:

Please feel free to speak to me after class or during class breaks. If you are not in class, the best way to contact me is to stop by during my office hours. Otherwise I can be reached by email or by leaving a voice mail message.

How to get important information:

Please check the announcements for the course and check the OWL site for the course regularly.

Important Policies

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea 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 scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class at the discretion of the professor for note taking or any other purpose approved by the professor. If, however, they are used for personal purposes during class time (Facebook, e-mail, web surfing, gaming, etc.) the privilege of using laptops may be withdrawn. Using laptops is a privilege, not a right.

Cellphones, Blackberries, and similar devices, must be turned *OFF* (not just vibrate) during classes unless specific permission is sought for emergency purposes in a given class. Text messaging and Twittering are not permitted during class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at

519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

General Course Outline

PLEASE NOTE: Ideally, reading assignments should be done before you come to class in order to get the most out of lectures. Any additional readings will be posted on the OWL site for the course.

Sept 6 Introduction

READING: No assigned readings.

Sept 13 Class and Inequality

READING: McMullin, Chs. 1 and 2:2-46

Sept 20 Gender and Inequality

READING: McMullin, Ch. 3:47-67

Sept 27 Race, Ethnicity and Inequality

READING: McMullin, Ch. 4:68-93

Oct 4 Age and Inequality

READING: McMullin, Ch. 5:94-118

Oct 11 Fall Reading Week

Happy Thanksgiving!

Oct 18 Actors, Agency and Social Structure

READING: McMullin, Chs. 6 and 7:119-156

Oct 25 Mid-term Exam

Nov 1 Inequality and Families

READING: McMullin, Ch. 8:158-187

Nov 8 Inequality and Paid Work

READING: McMullin, Ch. 9:188-216

Nov 15 Inequality and Education

READING: McMullin, Ch. 10:217-252

Nov 22 Inequality and Health

READING: McMullin, Ch. 11:253-291

Nov 29 Inequality and the State

READING: McMullin, Chs. 12:292-321

Dec 6 Summation and Review

READING: McMullin, Ch. 13:322-331

Dec 10-21 Final Examination Period