This course is intended to examine one or more current issues in stratification. The issue on which we shall focus this term is status.

WEIGHTS OF COURSE WORK

There are five components on which your grade for the course is based:

- Class participation: 30
- Quizzes: 20
- Essay proposal: 10
- Essay 1: 20
- Essay 2: 20

Note: Departmental grade guidelines require that a 3000-level course have a mean between 70% and 74% in final grades.

PREREQUISITES

Sociology 020 or Sociology 021E and third or fourth-year standing in a programme (old) or module (new) in Sociology.

Note about Prerequisites and Antirequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, 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.
PARTICIPATION

This is a seminar/lecture course. You will not like the course if you do not participate. The participation mark will be based on the effort you make to contribute to the class discussions and the extent to which that participation indicates that you have done the assigned reading for the class. You are also expected to prepare responses to the specific questions that are given to the class in advance. You are not required to write out your responses and not encouraged to read them in class, but you should introduce them into the class discussion.

QUIZZES

At each seminar for which reading is expected there will be a short quiz consisting of multiple-choice questions. The quizzes are designed to test if you have understood the lecture and done the reading. Each quiz will be held at the time the class begins. If you miss a quiz you will receive zero, unless you submit a ten-page summary of the reading within one week of the date of the quiz. This summary is not graded. Its purpose is to demonstrate that you did the reading. Students are permitted to submit no more than three summaries in lieu of quizzes.

MISSED EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

See appropriate sections of the course outline and essay assignment for regulations. Exceptions to these regulations will be made only in cases of severe disability. Students should understand that in such cases academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. It is your responsibility to follow the University’s new “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be accessed at:


READINGS

Each week you have several required readings. Most of the required readings are available on the OWL website for this course or in a course package that can be purchased at the Bookstore. The exceptions are three books also available at the Bookstore: Choosing the Right Pond: Human Behavior and the Quest for Status by R.H. Frank, Freaks, Geeks, and Cool Kids by Murray Milner, Jr., and Friends of the Court by Ian Brodie. These books are also available on reserve at the library.
CLASSES

January 8       Orientation and Introduction

January 15     Classical theory


January 22     Status influence


Alicia D. Cast, Jan E. Stets, and Peter J. Burke, “Does the self conform to the views of others?” *Social Psychological Quarterly* 62 (1999). [OWL]

January 29     Status and social relations


February 5     Status as capital


February 12    Status as a commodity

February 26 Status among adolescents


March 5 Citizenship


March 12 Status politics


March 19 State decorations


Kees Bruin, “Distinction and democratization: royal decorations in the Netherlands” in


March 26 Celebrities


Lorraine York, “‘He should do well on the American talk shows’: celebrity, publishing, and the future of Canadian literature.” *Essays on Canadian Writing* 71 (2000). [OWL]

April 2 The study of status
ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

The essay assignment is a major part of this course. If you do not like writing essays, this will be a difficult course for you. You will be required to write two papers, the second of which must be a revision of the first. They will be graded equally. Primarily, you will improve the essay on the basis of my criticisms, but you will be credited for any improvements you make and so it is to your advantage to be self-critical. The essay proposal should be 200-300 words and the essay itself 3,000-4,000 words long. Late proposals will be assessed .25 marks (out of 100) per day, including weekends. (If your proposal were six days late, your mark would go from, for example, 81 to 79.5). Late essays will be assessed .5 marks (out of 100) per day, including weekends. (If your paper were six days late, your mark would go from, for example, 81 to 78.) Exceptions will be granted only in cases of severe disability.

All essays must examine an issue related to a specific type of status inequality linking it to one or two theories, approaches, or frameworks that have been constructed to help us understand status inequality in general. Examples of status inequalities: gender, age, race or ethnicity, physical or mental disabilities, weight, physical disfigurement, prison background, immigrant or refugee status, looks, occupation, education. Or any other kind of status inequality that interests you.

Deadlines for essay:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>January 29</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>March 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>April 9</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Essay 2 must be handed in no later than [December 20] so that I can submit my grades on time. Essays submitted after that date will receive 0.

With Essay 1 you need to submit your essay proposal with my approval written on it. With Essay 2 you must submit (1) the marked-up version of Essay 1; (2) my comments on Essay 1; and (3) a 200-300 word statement (in point form) of the revisions you have made and how you have met my criticisms. Every assertion in this outline must make reference to specific pages in Essay 2. (Grammatical revisions and other small changes can be noted in general terms.)

The essay should be well written and organized. Marks will be deducted for poorly written or poorly organized essays. Style, grammar, punctuation, and spelling are all important and will affect the grade.
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 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.