



Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA

The University of Western Ontario

Sociology 2229B: Global Inequality

UWO, Section 001

Winter 2022

Prof. Tess Hooks

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Class Session:

Thursdays, 1:30 to 4:30 pm SSC 2020

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the issue of inequality on a global scale both between and within nations. It examines the causes and consequences of this inequality.

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

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 2239.

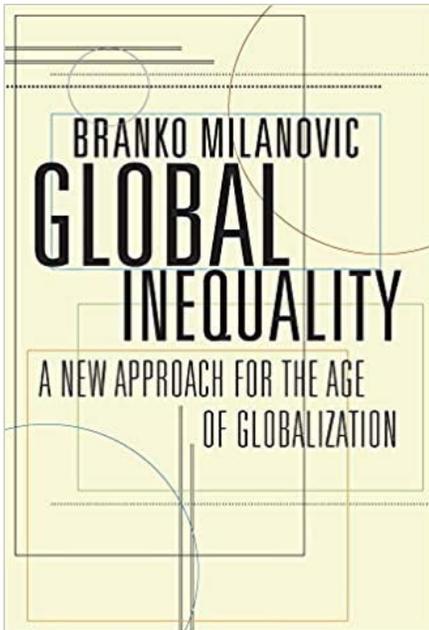
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped 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 for why global inequality matters.
- ✓ To examine the extent of inequality between and within nations.
- ✓ To identify and evaluate the possible explanations for the inequality between rich and poor countries.
- ✓ To identify and evaluate the possible explanations for the inequality that exists within nations.
- ✓ To survey the nature and scope of global inequalities related to the environment, distribution of work, urbanization, overpopulation, income disparities and poverty, and human rights, etc.

Required Text(s):



Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization by Branko Milanovic, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press (2016).

There may be additional readings posted on the OWL site.

Evaluation:

<i>Blog Assignment</i>	<i>26% (see the OWL course site)</i>
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>37% (due February 14)</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>37% per UWO exam schedule</i>

Blog Assignment:

The details for the Blog Assignment 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.

The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period. The final exam is NOT CUMULATIVE and focuses primarily on the material covered in the second half of the course; however, some questions may relate to earlier material (i.e. concepts that are re-examined in the second half of the course).

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

How to Contact Me:

The best way to contact me is via email.

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 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: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the on-line Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. Students will be able to use two self-reported absences between September and April.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

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: *There may be additional reading assignments tied to Discussions. Any additional readings will be posted on the OWL site for the course.*

Jan 10 **An Introduction to Global Inequality**

READING: No Assigned Readings

Jan 17 **The Rise of the Global Middle Class**

READING: Milanović, Introduction and Ch. 1: 1-45

Jan 24 **Inequality Within Countries**

READING: Milanović, Ch. 2: 46-117

Alvin Chang

2016 “This cartoon explains how the rich got rich and the poor got poor” Vox News: May 23.

Jan 31 **Inequality Among Countries**

READING: Milanović, Ch. 3: 118-154

Feb 7 **Global Inequality in This Century and the Next: What Next?**

READING: Milanović, Ch. 4 and 5: 155-239

Joseph E. Stiglitz

2018 “A Rigged Economy: And what we can do about it” Scientific American 319(5):56-61.

Virginia Eubanks

2018 “Automating Bias: How algorithms designed to alleviate poverty can perpetuate it instead” Scientific American 319(5):68-71.

Feb 14 **Mid-Term Exam ♥ Happy Valentine’s Day ♥**

Feb 21 **Reading Week**

Feb 28 **The Hidden Wealth of Nations: Tax Havens**

READING: Gabriel Zucman

2015 “A Century of Offshore Finance” and “The Missing Wealth of Nations” Chs. 1, 2 and 5 from *The Hidden Wealth of Nations: The Scourge of Tax Havens*. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago: 8-55; 102-113.

March 7 **The International Division of Labour**

READING: Sylvia Chant

2014 “The Informal Economy in Cities of the South.” in *The Companion to Development Studies* edited by Vanadan Desai and Robert B. Potter. Routledge: New York:200-207

Sally Lloyd Evans

2014 “Child Labour.” in *The Companion to Development Studies* edited by Vanadan Desai and Robert B. Potter. Routledge: New York:207-212.

Katie D. Willis

2014 “Migration and Transnationalism.” in *The Companion to Development Studies* edited by Vanadan Desai and Robert B. Potter. Routledge: New York:212-217

Alan Gilbert

2014 “The New International Division of labour.” in *The Companion to Development Studies* edited by Vanadan Desai and Robert B. Potter. Routledge: New York:166-173

March 14 The Global Gender Gap

READING: World Economic Forum
 2021 “Key Findings” and “Measuring the Global Gender Gap” from *The Global Gender Gap Report*. Switzerland: 5-40.
Oxfam Report 2020: Time to Care

March 21 Race and America’s Low-Road Approach to Capitalism

READING: Matthew Desmond
 2019 “In Order to Understand the Brutality of American Capitalism, You Have to Start on the Plantation.” from *The New York Times Magazine: The 1619 Project*. New York, New York: 30-40.
The 1619 Project Podcast, Episode 2: The Economy that Slavery Built

March 28 Race and the Global Division of Labour

READING: Sarah White
 2002 “Thinking Race, Thinking Development.” *Third World Quarterly* 23(3):407-419.
Denise Ferreira Da Silva
 2014 “Race and Development.” in *The Companion to Development Studies* edited by Vanadan Desai and Robert B. Potter. Routledge: New York:39-42
Ramon Grosfoguel
 2016 “What is Racism?” *Journal of World-Systems Research* 22(1):9-15.
Howard Winant
 2017 “Is Racism Global?” *Journal of World-Systems Research* 23(2):505-510.

April 4 Inequality and the Environment

READING: The Lancet Commission of Pollution and Health
 2017 “Executive Summary” and “Introduction” from *The Lancet Commission of Pollution and Health Report*. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)32345-0/fulltext#secestitle20](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)32345-0/fulltext#secestitle20).
Oxfam
 2015 “Extreme Carbon Inequality: Why the Paris Climate Deal Must Put the Poorest, Lowest Emitting and Most Vulnerable People First.” Oxfam Media Briefing.
James K. Boyce
 2018 “The Environmental Cost of Inequality: Power imbalances facilitate environmental degradation—and the poor suffer the consequences” *Scientific American* 319(5):72-77.

April 10 -30 Final Examination Period