



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3347F-001**  
**Issues in Stratification**  
**Fall 2022**  
**Monday, 1.30 – 4:30, SSC 2028**  
**In-person**

**Instructor:** Professor Anders Holm  
**Office Hours:** Monday/ 9-11, Drop-in or Zoom  
**Department of Sociology, Office:** SSC 5327  
**Email:** aholm@uwo.ca

---

**Course Description:**

Social inequality is a fundamental and contentious issue in almost all societies that exist and that have ever existed. Together with social stratification it forms one of the most studied issues in the discipline of sociology. Although some patterns of social inequality are specific to a certain country or region due to unique historical experience, there are some common social structural factors explaining the root causes of inequality. In this class we will discuss many causes and consequences of inequality both in Canada and in global contexts. We will study the distribution of wealth, power and influence; how these factors that influence inequality can be measured; and how their relative importance can change.

***Prerequisite(s):*** Registration in third year or above.

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 if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

***Anti-requisite(s):*** None

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

The course aims at giving a broad overview of inequality and social stratification with a special focus on the importance of social class and income. Also, there is a focus on how society has changes over times in terms of unequal distribution of resources and the links to stratification. Further, the student should get a good understanding of the mechanisms generating inequality and stratification. There is an emphasis on understating the logics of mechanisms leading to inequality and stratification with special emphasis on the importance of education. The student will learn to read and argue from graphic illustration of the relationship between quantities capturing inequality and stratification across time and societies.

### **Course Material:**

The readings for this class are excerpts from the book: Grusky, D. B. (ed.) Social Stratification, Class, Race and Gender in Sociological Perspective (4<sup>th</sup> ed.), Westview Press. It is available at the UWO bookstore. In addition, research paper and articles will be used. They are available for download via OWL.

### **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

There will be one midterm test, an essay assignment and a final exam.

#### ***Evaluation Breakdown:***

Midterm test. 3 hours, Multiple choice and short answers, in person (in class), date: November 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Weight = 33.3%

Student essay. Take home, due date: November 21<sup>st</sup>. Weight = 33.3%

Final Examination 3 hours. Multiple choice and short answers, in person, date: TBA, Weight = 33.3%

#### ***Essay:***

Each student is expected to write a research essay for the course. Students are required to pick a topic of their choice that deals with social inequality, either globally or in Canada. A range of possible topics will be presented in class. The instructor must approve the topic. The essay should not exceed 7 pages and be double-space typed. The essay should specify the main questions raised; begin with a thesis statement; contain a relevant literature review; and conclude with your position on the topic. The instructor will hand out detailed instructions for the essays.

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online.

### **Important dates, Fall 2022:**

Thursday September 8, 2022: Fall Term classes begin.

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies

Monday October 10, 2022: Thanksgiving Holiday.

October 31 - November 6, 2022: Fall Reading Week.

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty

Thursday December 8, 2022: Fall Term classes end.

December 10-22, 2022: Examination period.

No exams or tests can be scheduled in the last 3 weeks of the course: Monday Nov 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

Department Makeup exams:

- Midterm; Friday November 11 12:00-3:00pm Location TBA
- Final: Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> 12:00-3:00pm Location TBA

### **Student Absences:**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Missed test or exam will be replaced by either a make-up or an essay of similar work load as the required essay.

### **Absences from Final Examinations:**

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

### **Sept. 12. Introduction.**

Introduction David B. Grusky and Katherine R. Weisshaar: The Questions We Ask About Inequality

David B. Grusky and Szonja Szelényi: The Stories We Tell About Inequality

Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore: Some Principles of Stratification

### **Sept. 19. Introduction to mechanisms of stratification**

David B. Grusky and Katherine R. Weisshaar A: Compressed History of Inequality

Melvin M. Tumin: Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis

Claude S. Fischer, Michael Hout, Martín Sánchez, Jankowski, Samuel R. Lucas, Ann Swidler, and Kim Voss: Inequality by Design

### **Sept. 26. Trends I**

Anthony B. Atkinson, Thomas Piketty, and Emmanuel Saez: Top Incomes in the Long Run of History

Robert Frank Why: Is Income Inequality Growing?

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson: Winner-Take-All Politics: Public Policy, Political Organization, and the Precipitous Rise of Top Incomes in the United States

Gøsta Esping-Andersen and John Myles: The Welfare State and Redistribution

### **Oct. 3. Trends II**

Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz: The Race between Education and Technology

Bruce Western and Jake Rosenfeld: Unions, Norms and the Rise in the U.S. Wage Inequality

Yujia Liu and David B. Grusky: The Winners of the Third Industrial Revolution

### **Oct. 17. Segregation**

Douglas S. Massey and Nancy A. Denton: American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass

Stefanie DeLuca and James E. Rosenbaum: Does Changing Neighborhoods Change Lives?

Robert Sampson: Legacies of Inequality

### **Oct. 24. Mechanisms I**

James J. Heckman: Skill Formation and the Economics of Investing in Disadvantaged Children

Greg J. Duncan and Katherine Magnuson: The Long Reach of Early Childhood Poverty

Gary W. Evans, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and Pamela Kato Klebanov: Stressing Out the Poor

### **Reading week**

### **Nov. 7. Midterm Exam**

### **Nov 14. Mechanisms II**

Peter M. Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan, with the collaboration of Andrea Tyree: The Process of Stratification

Christopher Jencks, Marshall Smith, Henry Acland, Mary Jo Bane, David Cohen, Herbert Gintis, Barbara Heyns, and Stephan Michelson Inequality: A Reassessment of the Effect of Family and Schooling in America

### **Nov. 21. Mobility I**

David L. Featherman and Robert M. Hauser: A Refined Model of Occupational Mobility

Richard Breen: Social Mobility in Europe

Jan O. Jonsson, David B. Grusky, Matthew Di Carlo, and Reinhard Pollak: It's a Decent Bet That Our Children Will Be Professors Too

### **Nov. 28. Mobility II (assignment due)**

Gary Solon: Intergenerational Income Mobility

John Ermisch, Markus Jääntti, Timothy Smeeding, and James A. Wilson: Advantage in Comparative Perspective

## **Dec. 5. Education**

Richard Breen and John H. Goldthorpe: Explaining Educational Differentials

Sean F. Reardon: The Widening Academic Achievement Gap Between the Rich and the Poor

Richard Breen, Ruud Luijkx, Walter Müller, and Reinhard Pollak: Nonpersistent Inequality in Educational Attainment

## **Dec. Final Exam**

### **Important Policies**

***Academic Consideration for Missed Work:*** Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). The student medical certificate is available at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

***Religious Accommodation:*** When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should

consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

**Accessibility Options:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/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:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**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.

**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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

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

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html) .To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

2022-2023