

SOCIOLOGY 220H1F – Fall 2012
SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Instructor: Paul Armstrong

Time: Wednesday, 9am – 11am

E-Mail: p.armstrong@mail.utoronto.ca

Location: SS2102

Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:00-2:30pm, location: #371, 725 Spadina Avenue (Department of Sociology), online office hours by appointment

Course Website: <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

Description

This course examines theoretical explanations of the causes, prevalence and manifestations of social, political and economic inequalities, internationally and within Canada.

We begin with a brief examination of historical variation in inequality structures. We then go on to examine the ‘classical’ sociological treatment of inequality, focusing specifically on the works of Marx, Tocqueville, Weber, and the functionalist school. We continue with accounts of how, and why, inequality persists and we conclude with a discussion of contemporary manifestations of inequality and potentially mediating action.

Required Texts

- Grabb, E.G. (2007). Theories of Social Inequality, 5th ed. Toronto: Nelson.

- Articles and book chapters marked with * are posted on the course website

Prerequisite

The prerequisite for SOC220H1F is SOC101Y1 or SOC102H1 or SOC103H1. Without exception, students who do not have this prerequisite can be removed at any time without notice.

Evaluation

There will be one midterm (30%), one take-home essay (30%), and one final exam (40%). The midterm will be written during class time at the regular class location SS2102. The date and location of the final exam will be posted by the registrar later in the semester. The midterm and final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. Details on the take-home essay will be provided online and in class as it nears.

Make-up Tests

Students **MUST** contact course staff within one week of missing a term test. Please provide appropriate documentation, such as a signed University of Toronto student medical certificate (available on the registrar’s website), on the day of the make-up test. Make-up tests are scheduled to take place one week after the missed exam. Please note

that “vacation” is not an acceptable excuse. For more details, please see the 2012-13 Academic Calendar found online at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/undergraduate/course>.

Regrading Policy

It is within a student’s rights to request to have course material regraded. Students wishing to enact this right should e-mail the course instructor who will then make arrangements with the course TAs. Please note the following conditions:

- 1) Students requesting to have material graded may only do so following 24 hours after work is handed back. Any requests submitted within 24 hours of the distribution of marks will not be accepted.
- 2) Students must submit written justification explaining why their mark should be reviewed. Such justifications should be substantive and include references to their work.
- 3) The grade assigned to regraded work is the final grade for that assignment and may be higher or lower than the original grade.

E-Mail Policy

It is expected that students will exercise care in the content and wording of their e-mail correspondence. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to reply to:

- 1) e-mails that he considers rude, impolite, or generally lacking appropriate etiquette.
- 2) e-mails that do not originate from a utoronto.ca e-mail account.
- 3) e-mails whose content can be retrieved from the course syllabus or course website.

Plagiarism

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices accepted by teachers in high school may prove unacceptable at university. Know where you stand by consulting <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students>.

Deadlines

Late work will not be accepted unless submitted with proper documentation from a student’s physician or college registrar. Late work with documentation may be submitted in class or during office hours. Late work will be penalized at a rate of 5% a day. Late work must be date stamped and deposited in room 225 in the Department of Sociology.

Films

The films listed are a required part of the course and the exams. If you can not attend class on the date they are shown, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to view them.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility.utoronto.ca Course Schedule and Readings

Course Schedule

September 12: Introduction and course summary.

September 19: Historical variations of inequality: slave, caste, and feudal societies.
Trudel: *The Seignorial Regime*.*

September 26: Industrialization and inequality
Film: *Capitalism: A Love Story*

October 3: Industrialization and theories of inequality: Marx and Tocqueville.
Grabb: Ch. 2
Marx: *The Communist Manifesto*: Ch. 1*

October 10: Organizations and theories of inequality: Weber and Michels.
Grabb: Ch. 3
Bendix: *Inequality and Social Structure: A Comparison of Marx and Weber*.*

October 17: Functional theories of inequality: Durkheim.
Grabb: Ch. 4
Bottomore: *A Marxist Consideration of Durkheim*.*

October 24: **Midterm**

October 31: Inequality Structures: Institutionalism, Ideology, and Hegemony.
Smith: *The Myth of the Self-made Man in English Canada, 1850-1914*.*

November 7: Post-Industrial Inequality (I): Gender.
Grabb: pp. 190-198.
de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex: Introduction*.*

November 14: Post-Industrial Inequality (II): Race.
Grabb: pp. 198-201.
Fanon: *Reciprocal Bases of National Culture and the Fight for Freedom*.*
Tilly: *Unequal Knowledge*.*

November 21: Mediating Inequality? (I) The Modern Welfare State.
The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: *The true cost of P3s**
The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: *Minimum Wage Fact Sheets**

Take-Home Essay Due

November 28: Mediating Inequality? (II)

Film: *The Mondragon Experience*.

Collins: *Situational Stratification: A Micro-Macro Theory of Inequality*.*

December 5: Concluding remarks