

SOCIOLOGY 220H1F – Summer 2013
SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Instructor: Dr. Paul Armstrong
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Time: Tues, Thurs 6pm – 8pm
Location: SS1085

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2:00-3:00pm, location: Room 341, 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

All of the required course material is posted online on the course website. There is NO TEXTBOOK. Students are expected to come to class having read that week’s material and be prepared to discuss it. Additional material such as news articles and film clips may also be posted to the course website throughout the semester.

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 (25%), one essay (25%), one group presentation (25%) and one final exam (25%).

1) Midterm (25%) – May 30th, 6:10 pm

The midterm will be written during class time at the regular class location SS1085. The format of the test will consist of short answer and essay questions.

2) Essay (25%) – Due June 13th, 5:00 pm

You are required to write a short essay on one of the weekly topics shown in the course

schedule below (there will be no substitutions). You should cite at least 10 sources from academic journals and/or books *outside of the required readings for the course*. Textbook citations do not count as part of the 15 sources. At least 4 of these sources should be dated 1995 or more recent. The paper should read much like a literature review for an academic paper appearing in a top-tier sociological journal such as the *American Sociological Review*. The paper must be *at least 5 pages* but *no more than 7 pages* in length (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font)—material past page 7 will not be evaluated.

The short essay is due by 5:00 on June 13th. Your paper grade will be deducted **5% per day** or part thereof for late submissions. **I will only accept electronic copies** of the paper—**You must submit your paper through the course website. Your paper must be formatted for Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx file extension)**. I will provide instructions regarding the electronic submission process in class as the deadline nears. I will not give extensions except under very special circumstances. I suggest, therefore, that you plan to have the paper finished long before the deadline.

3) Group Presentation – Starting June 4th

Group presentations are a way for students to develop skills working with others. In groups you will present your interpretation and critical analysis of readings related to the week's topic. **Please note that this exercise is not merely a summary of course material**. Rather, groups should focus more energy on delivering an argument relating to the week's topic. Each group must also create discussion questions to be taken up by the class.

I will circulate a signup sheet during the first 2 weeks of class whereby groups can choose what topic they wish to study. **Please note that there is a maximum of 3 presentations per class therefor selection will occur on a first-come first-served basis**. After selecting their topic each group must make arrangements to meet with me **no later than 1 week before they present**. In this meeting I will distribute additional materials and answer any questions.

The size of groups will be determined when final enrolment figures are available. I recognize that students have disparate obligations and therefor I will adjust the number of presentations per week in order to maintain small group sizes. This also means that the length of presentations will also be determined after enrolment has been finalized.

The use of visual aids including, but not limited to, powerpoint is encouraged. Visual aids should be used to convey your group's interpretation of main points and critical discussion questions.

4) Final Exam (25%) – Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

The date and location of the final exam will be posted by the registrar later in the semester. The final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and will cover material since the midterm.

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 test. 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.

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; www.accessibility.utoronto.ca

Course Schedule and Readings

May 14: Introduction and course summary.

May 16: Historical variations of inequality: slave, caste, and feudal societies.
Trudel: *The Seignorial Regime.*

May 21: Industrialization and theories of inequality: Marx and Tocqueville.
Marx: *The Communist Manifesto:* Ch. 1

May 23: Organizations and theories of inequality: Weber and Michels.
Bendix: *Inequality and Social Structure: A Comparison of Marx and Weber.*

May 28: Functional theories of inequality: Durkheim.
Bottomore: *A Marxist Consideration of Durkheim.*

May 30: **Midterm**

June 4: Inequality Structures: Institutionalism, Ideology, and Hegemony.
Smith: *The Myth of the Self-made Man in English Canada, 1850-1914.*

June 6: Post-Industrial Inequality (I): Gender.
de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex: Introduction.*

June 10: Course Drop Date

June 11: Post-Industrial Inequality (II): Race.
Fanon: *Reciprocal Bases of National Culture and the Fight for Freedom*
Tilly: *Unequal Knowledge.**

June 13: 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*
Essay Due – 5:00 pm

June 18: Mediating Inequality? (II)

Film: *The Mondragon Experience*.

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

June 20: Concluding remarks