

## Sociology 411: Social Stratification

**Catalog Description:** SOCI 411: Social Stratification is the study of the factors which account for differences in influence, power, and social prestige held by different individuals and groups in the community and the society. Also considered are the theories of stratification and the relationships between social class and education, occupational choice, political preference, and religious affiliation. The relationship between social class and social mobility is reviewed.

**Detailed Description:** SOCI 411: Social Stratification offers early and modern explanations and theories of social stratification. The course examines the American class structure and the political economy of welfare. The course content entails the history and evolution of gender and race inequalities. SOCI 411 also explores modes of achievement through the understanding of processes of social mobility and legitimation.

### **TWO Required Textbooks:**

Kerbo, Harold R. 2012. *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative, and Global Perspective* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). New York, NY: McGraw Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-811165-5

Grusky, David B. 2008. *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press. ISBN 978-0-8133-4373-0

**Grading:** All assessments are submitted in Sakai. All scores for one discussion post, seven assignments, three exams, and one final paper will be based out of a possible **1050** points, which are based on exams and assignments listed above. There are specific deadlines for each assignment, which there should be no submissions of late work or last minute work. There are also **30** optional extra credit points.

A = 90-100+% = 945-1050+ points  
B = 80-89% = 840-944 points  
C = 70-79% = 735-839 points  
D = 60-69% = 630-734 points  
F = below 60 = less than 630 points

**Schedule of Course Assignments:** Over the course of the semester, all assignments are submitted in Sakai on the dates listed below. The instructions are available in Sakai. There will be no late submissions for missed assignments except under dire and documented circumstances and at the instructor's discretion.

DUE DATE	ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE	COURSE ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
		<b>DISCUSSION POST (on Forum)</b>	
8/31	Homework 1	Lesson 1: Student Introduction	20
		<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	

9/7	Homework 2	Lesson 1: What is Stratification?	80
9/14	Homework 3	Lesson 2: Inequality, Social Mobility, and Distinction	80
9/28	Homework 4	Lesson 3: Classical Theories of Stratification	60
10/12	Homework 5	Lesson 4: Upper and Corporate Classes	60
10/19	Homework 6	Lesson 4: Middle/Working Class and Poverty	40
11/16	Homework 8	Lesson 6: Gender Stratification	60
		<b>EXAMS</b>	
10/5	Exam 1 (multiple choice)	Lesson 3: Theories of Stratification	100
11/2	Exam 2 (essay)	Lessons 5: Racial Stratification	100
<b>12:00-2:00pm 12/11</b>	Final Exam	Politics, Media, and Inequality (in-class, written)	150
		<b>FINAL PAPER</b>	
11/30	Final Paper	Final Paper on Global Stratification	150
		<b>EXTRA CREDIT</b>	
11/9	Homework 7	Lesson 6: Gender Discrimination	30
		<b>PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE</b>	
8/26-12/2	Class Participation	6pts. per class session * 25 sessions	150

**Exams:** Three exams (one multiple choice, one essay, and one short answer, in-class exam) covering selected textbook chapters and class materials are available on Sakai. Exams 1 and 2 are worth 100 points. Exam 3 is worth 150 points. There will be no make-up exams for missed exams except under dire and documented circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam date.

**Final Paper:** The final paper is worth 150 points. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins (sides, top and bottom), 12-point font. Please follow the paragraph criteria listed for each component of the essay. Cite the course readings and at least eight additional academic sources properly (or risk failure due to plagiarism). However, you must use an academic source (i.e. not Wikipedia, private blogs, etc.). Use APA formatting for the essay. There will be no late submissions for the final essay except under dire and documented circumstances and at the instructor's discretion. The final essay criteria are posted on Sakai.

**Extra Credit:** Please note the requirements for receiving credit for "Extra Credit" Assignments. (1) If a student has more than "3" unexcused class absences, the student is NOT eligible to receive credit for extra credit assignments. (2) If a student fails to submit the final exam, they cannot receive credit for extra credit attempts. (3) If a student fails to submit the final essay, or does not follow the final essay guidelines and requirements, the student is NOT eligible to receive credit for extra credit assignment attempts. The assigned required work allows each student to meet the course objectives. Extra credit assignments CAN NOT replace those required components.

**LEAP Goal:** This course addresses LEAP Goal No. 3: Personal and Social Responsibility

**Learning Competencies:** The students enrolled in SOCI 411 will learn the following competencies: develop civic knowledge and civic engagement, and demonstrate understanding of multiculturalism and sensitivity to issues of diversity.

**Learning Outcomes:** Following the completion of this course:

- the students in this course will be able to describe how the concepts, knowledge, and theories of social stratification and inequality illuminate their own lived experiences;
- the students in this course will be able to explain the source and distribution of class, power, economic resources, prestige, social mobility, and poverty in the U.S.;
- the students in this course will be able to assess how and why stratification and inequality in America has changed during the past half-century;
- the students in this course will be able to use an intersectionality approach to develop an understanding of race, class, and gender-based stratification; and
- the students in this course will be able to apply theory and research on issues of social inequality

**Areas of Blooms Taxonomy:**

Knowledge	Describe concepts, knowledge and theories of social stratification
Comprehension	Explain the distribution of power in the US
Application	Demonstrate how intersectional models of race, class, and gender explain stratification
Analysis	Apply theory and research on issues of social inequality
Synthesis	Compare and contrast past and present forms of stratification to assess issues of change
Evaluation	Critique personal experiences using theories of stratification

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to log into Sakai daily and to know and understand the specific policies established for in-class attendance. Students will receive 6 points per in-class session, which will be held on Tuesday and Thursday (8/26 to 12/2) from 11:00am-12:15pm in room 304 of White Hall. The instructor will make reasonable accommodations for occasional, unavoidable circumstances based on highly legitimate grounds. The instructor will determine the most appropriate means of compensating for work unavoidably and legitimately missed in their classes. To be eligible for such substitute evaluation, students are responsible for discussing any absences with the instructors: such discussions must occur in advance of foreseeable absences and as soon as possible following unpredictable ones. Students are also expected to plan their class, work, and personal schedules to avoid potential conflicts. You

must attend your classes regularly and engage in the requirements for each class; otherwise, your financial aid may be revoked either partially or in full. This would result in an amount due to the university immediately. Please refer to [shepherd.edu/faoweb](http://shepherd.edu/faoweb) for more details.

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating in all its forms, including plagiarism and cheating on visual work, is considered an academic matter to be controlled and acted upon by the instructor of this course. Students in this course are expected to abide by the university’s Academic Integrity Procedures found in the *Shepherd University Student Handbook* (<http://www.shepherd.edu/students/studenthandbook.pdf>). Cheating in any form (including copying other students’ answers, using unauthorized materials during exams, and submitting someone else’s work as your own) will result in an “F” in the course and referral to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Judicial Coordinator Manager for disciplinary action.

**Disability Support Services:** Disability Support Services (DSS) at Shepherd University facilitates equitable access for every student who self-identifies as having one or more disabilities. Students requesting any disability related accommodation should contact the Director of Disability Support Services in Student Center room 124 or at 304-876-5689. This includes students with disabilities who require academic accommodations, students requesting specific housing accommodations for health-related reasons, and all other disability accommodations. Accommodations must be documented, and accommodation letters from the DSS office must be provided to instructors. For additional information please see <http://www.shepherd.edu/mcssweb/dss/default.html>.

**Tentative Schedule of Lessons and Course Readings:** SOCI 411: Social Stratification consists of seven lessons: (1) Introduction to Stratification, (2) Inequality, Social Mobility and Distinction, (3) Theories of Social Stratification, (4) American Class Structure, (5) Racial and Ethnic Stratification, (6) Gender Stratification, and (7) Politics, Media, and Inequality. There is also a final paper on World Stratification: Japan and Germany.

SCHEDULE	LESSON	REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS
8/26-9/7	Lesson 1: Introduction to Stratification	Lesson Plan 1; Kerbo chapter 1 (p.2-16); Grusky (p. 30-33); Arrow, Bowles, and Durlauf PDF (p. 5-15); Lecture 1- Social Stratification, Lecture 2- Meritocracy; YouTube: The American Dream: The Myth of Meritocracy (4:03); Notes: Meritocracy is an Engine of Inequality
9/8-9/14	Lesson 2: Inequality, Social Mobility, and Distinction	Lesson Plan 2; Kerbo chapter 3 and 12 (p.51-84; 349-355); Grusky (p. 576-582; 870-893); Lecture 3- History of Inequality; Lecture 4- Social Mobility; YouTube: Economic Mobility in the US (28:55)
9/15-10/5	Lesson 3: Theories of Social Stratification	Lesson Plan 3; Kerbo chapter 4 and 5 (p.84-115; 117-148); Grusky (p. 74-78; 114-124;

		159-164); Lecture 5- Theories of Stratification; Exam 1 Review Sheet
10/6-10/19  <i>10/16-10/17 Fall Break</i>	Lesson 4: American Class Structure	Lesson Plan 4; Kerbo chapter 6, 7, 8, 9 (p.150-281); Grusky (p.290-295; 317-326); Lecture 6- Upper and Corporate Class, Lecture 7- Middle/Working Class and Poverty; YouTube: The Rise of the Corporate Class (27:01); Notes: Why do we Care about Corporate Interlocks?
10/20-11/2	Lesson 5: Racial and Ethnic Stratification	Lesson Plan 5; Kerbo chapter 11 (p.312-345); Grusky (p. 349-358; 624-631; 703-709); Lecture 8- Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity; Lecture 9: Discrimination; YouTube: Immigration History and Citizenship (24:23)
11/3-11/16  <i>No class 11/6</i>	Lesson 6: Gender Stratification	Lesson Plan 6; Kerbo chapter 10 (p.283-308); Grusky (p. 730-734; 838-842); McCall PDF (p.1771-1800); Lecture 10- Gender Stratification; Notes: Affirmative Action and What it Means for Women; YouTube: Does the Glass Ceiling Really Exist (12:23)
11/17-12/7  <i>No class 12/4</i>  <i>11/23-11/30 Thanksgiving Break</i>  <b>Final Exam 12:00-2:00pm 12/11</b>	Lesson 7: Politics, Media, and Inequality	Lesson Plan 7; Grusky (p. 945-951); Lecture 11- Media and Politics; YouTube: Gingrich Backs Lifting Campaign Finance Restrictions (4:25); YouTube: The Role of Religion in American Politics (7:17); Petrova PDF (p. 183-212); Gilens PDF (p. 515-541); McChesney PDF (p. 1-13)
8/25-11/30	Final Paper	Notes: Final Paper Instructions; Sample APA Formatted Paper; <u>Optional readings</u> - Chirot and Hall PDF (p. 81-106); Brinton and Ngo PDF (p. 93-111); Doyon PDF (p. 443-470); Ishida, Spilerman and Su PDF (p. 886-882); Kawakimi PDF (p. 204-211); Raymo and Iwasawa PDF (p. 801-822); Wahrenburg and Weldi PDF (p. 1-46); Puhani PDF (p. 127-140)

**THIS SYLLABUS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS LISTED ON SAKAI MAY BE ALTERED AT ANY TIME AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR**