

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION
SOCI 3330.900/950
Canvas Online
SPRING 2020

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Classroom:	Online
Office:	Sycamore Hall 288U
Office Hours:	M/W from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST/CDT (or by appointment)

REQUIRED TEXT

Marger, Martin N. 2015. *Social Inequality: Patterns and Processes*. McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0078026935

Canvas: Additional course readings and videos will be made available on the course site on Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This is a course designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts, theories, intersectionality, relations, conditions/ distribution of social stratifications. This is an undergraduate Internet-based introductory course dealing with social stratification—i.e. vertical societal differentiation or hierarchical inequality in society. The course analyzes the causes, processes and patterns of social inequality in its various forms. Emphasis is placed on the economic, political, ethnic/racial and other forms of social inequality, as manifested in socially conditioned and patterned differentials and inequities in terms of class, power, and status. The course will introduce the relationship of inequality in the United States and Globally, applying a comparative-historical perspective on social stratification. As this is an upper-level course, the emphasis will be placed on understanding, conceptualization, and analysis, rather than on just memorization of terms and concepts. Students will be required to participate in discussions and help with the learning process. The learning objectives for the course are:

1. Increase the student's awareness and understanding of the society in which we live, the social phenomena which we observe, and the world in which we live;
2. Introduce students to theories, concepts, empirical facts, and patterns of social stratification in contemporary society;
3. Acquire a socio-historical perspective of how social inequality became embedded in the American society;
4. Students will be able to analyze and explain how and why social stratifications exist, persist, and/or change society;
5. Increase awareness and understand of how social inequality and privilege affect the lives of individuals and relationships between individuals;
6. students will be able to relate and compare social stratification to society as a whole, including economy, politics, civil society, and culture;
7. students will be able to apply sociological concepts, principles, and methods to better understanding and addressing current issues of social stratification;
8. Encourage critical thinking and awareness of social stratifications, increasing capacities and motivations or interests in further studying social stratification and related sociological subjects at undergraduate and graduate levels.

COURSE INFORMATION

This is a course will be held through Canvas. Every student is allotted a Canvas subscription through UNT. Communications will come through announcements. Students should be sure to check their email settings so the announcements got o their desired email. Ignorance of announcements does not excuse students from their course requirements.

I am available for meeting during my open office hours or by appointment and welcome the opportunity to assist students. Please utilize my UNT email provided above class to schedule any appointments. With the exception of weekends and holidays, I check my email frequently and tend to respond within 24 hours. Please be sure to use my faculty email (above) and put the course heading in the subject section. ***This helps me help you,*** allowing for faster response times.

Ask questions if there is anything you do not understand or wish to clarify. Especially concerning assignments. Do not fall behind in your readings and assignments. If you begin to fall behind, or experience difficulty, be sure to consult with me. Do not wait until late in the semester, inform me as soon as possible if there are any issues. It is your responsibility to complete the coursework on time. You may not be reminded of work that you have missed. I value discussion and input into the course and work to create opportunities for you to do so. I also highly value respect. I will treat you with respect and expect that you will do the same for your classmates. This syllabus is not to be treated as a contract and is subject to change with advance notice to the student by the instructor.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 13, 2020	First Class Day
January 20, 2020	MLK Day (no classes)
March 9-13, 2020	Spring Break (no classes)
April 29-30, 2020	Pre-finals Days
April 30, 2020	Last Class Day
May 1, 2020	Reading Day (no classes)
May 2-8, 2020	Finals

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The University of North Texas [UIT Student Helpdesk](#) provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Our hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8am-midnight

Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday 9am-5p

Sunday 8am-midnight

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties. UNT is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty, which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. Obtain, record, and retain your incident report number from the UNT Student Help Desk. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

GRADES AND GRADING STRUCTURE

Readings: The student is responsible to complete each week's readings. In order to be able to fully participate in discussions, exams and assignments it is important to keep up with the readings.

Unit Folders: Each unit lesson can be found by clicking on the "Home" or "Module" tab on the left side of the computer screen. The folder will contain a rough outline of the chapter, but it is the student's responsibility to read the chapter and elaborate on the main points outlined. The folders will become available as they become relevant.

Discussions: Weekly discussion is mandatory and full engagement is critical to your and the course's success. The quality of this participation is very important. Your discussions should be interactive and engaging. You should ask questions of your fellow students, make comments, and/or even ask them for clarification on various aspects of their understanding of the reading.

Students must remember to always be respectful when discussing with their classmates. This course has many topics that people feel strongly about. While not everyone may agree on the same point, students must remember to be respectful when conveying their point. When participating in discussions, students must focus on the argument and not the individual, be sure that there is factual evidence to support their claim, and disregard personal bias.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be 11 chapter quizzes throughout the semester, covering each chapter, to assess your progress in the course. It will be important for you to keep up with your readings, and maintain a study schedule to be prepared for the weekly quizzes.

Exams: Students are to complete two exams over the course of the semester. Exams will include multiple choice. Questions will vary from simple definitions to critically thinking about the content of the chapter and relating it to real world events. Students will be given an hour and fifteen minutes (75 minutes) to complete each exam. While students are allowed to use their course material during the exam, they will not be given enough time to research every question. Students should study for their exams and be prepared to complete each exam in the allotted time.

Analysis Paper: There will be one analysis paper due during the course of the semester. This paper is a chance for you to find an academic article of your choosing and write an analysis of the article applying the material learned in class. The paper will be due Friday at 11:59 p.m. via Canvas on the respective week. Before turning in your analysis paper, you will turn in a Brainstorming Assignment to prepare you for the Analysis Paper. Instructions can be found in their respective modules.

** See the course schedule for the distribution of readings and assignments over the course of the semester.

GRADING POINT SYSTEM AND GRADING SCALE

GRADING SOURCE	POINTS	PERCENT
Discussions (12 @ 10 points each)	120	24%
Quizzes (11 @ 10 points each)	110	22%
Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	200	40%
Analysis Paper	70	14%
Brainstorming Assignment		
Total Points	500	100%

GRADE	POINTS REQUIRED
A	1000-900
B	899-800
C	799-700
D	699-600
F	599-000

COURSE POLICIES

Etiquette: I highly value respect. I expect that all students will respect the opinions and experiences of other students. When engaging other students you are expected to be respectful, thoughtful and considerate of others. This also includes acknowledging various perspectives even when they are different from your own. Derogatory statements and signs of disrespect will not be tolerated. Ask questions of your fellow classmates for clarification when you disagree with them. The focus should be on the ideas expressed, not on the individual themselves. If you find anything offensive, please let the course instructor know as soon as possible. All discussions are to remain confidential. Respect for your fellow classmates also includes respecting their privacy. Classmates may divulge personal experiences or anecdotes, anything divulged by another person is theirs to tell, not yours to share with others. What your classmates say in class and post in discussions is to remain confidential.

Late Work Policy: All solo work, Exams (except the final), Quizzes, and the Analysis Paper may be turned in late for half credit. Half credit means the work will be graded as usual, and then the grade will be cut in half. For example, if a student made a 90 on an Exam, if the Exam is late the student will make a 45 instead. You do not need special permission or to submit an excuse for late work; just do it late and it will be given half credit. You may complete any solo work late up until the last day of the semester, which is May 1 at 11:59 p.m. With documentation of an **illness, family emergency, or required UNT sponsored event**, late work can be graded without the penalty.

As noted above, discussions, which requires interaction with the rest of the class, must be completed by its deadline, and no opportunity will be given for extra credit or make-up work once the deadline is passed. This is simply because logically, it is impossible for a student to do work which requires interacting with the rest of the class once the rest of the class has already moved on to the next week's assignment. Unfortunately, this type of work cannot be completed after the deadline for even legitimate reasons, including family emergencies, illnesses, etc. If you miss one of these interactive assignments for a university-approved reason, once you get university approval send me an email and we will work out some alternative assignment so that your grade does not suffer.

Canvas sometimes experiences technical difficulties, so I highly recommend that you turn in your work *before* each deadline so that you have time to fix any problems that come up. In the past, students have believed they turned in a written assignment online, but the assignment never showed up as turned in. *Double-check* your work to make sure everything you intend to turn in is actually turned in!

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of North Texas seeks to provide appropriate academic adjustments for all individuals with disabilities. This University will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with respect to providing appropriate academic adjustments to afford equal educational opportunity. However, it is the responsibility of the student to register with and provide medical verification and academic schedules to Disability Support Services (DSS) at the beginning of each semester and no later than the second week of school unless otherwise determined by the coordinator (i.e., no later than September 7th). The student also must contact the faculty member in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate academic adjustments. Appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. Call 940-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at: <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty (cheating and/or plagiarism) will not be tolerated at any time. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the University of North Texas, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and the Department of Sociology. You will find the complete provisions of the code in the student handbook. Please note that I take academic dishonesty very seriously and the consequences will be very harsh.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another's ideas, words, writings, or research findings and not giving them proper credit through quotations or citations. Even when we are paraphrasing another's ideas, we must give credit. To do otherwise is to allow the reader to think these ideas and words are your own when they are not. This act is considered theft of intellectual property. Plagiarism is considered one of the most serious transgressions that can be committed in the educational community. Further information can be found on the website:

<http://www.unt.edu/csrr/development/dishonesty.html>

In the case of plagiarism, there are several options available to an instructor, including verbal and/or written reprimand, assignment of a lower grade with an explanation from the instructor, expulsion from the course with the assignment of a passing grade (WP), expulsion from the course with the assignment of a failing grade (WF), and/or expulsion from the university.

Therefore, all written work should be properly cited when:

1. Describing the ideas of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
2. Describing the research of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
3. Using the words, phrases, paragraphs, or pages of another, and/or
4. Quoting the words of another.

You may not copy another student's work or allow another student to copy yours. Both giving/getting unauthorized help and copying another student's work are violations of the UNT Code of Student Conduct (http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sites/default/files/images/code_of_student_conduct.pdf).

Advice on avoiding plagiarism is offered by the [Purdue University Online Writing Lab](#).

F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

U.S. Federal Regulation: For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at:

<http://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations>

The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at:

"Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)" and can be found buried within this document:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml>

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COMPLIANCE

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Links to all of these services can be found on the [Academic Support tab](#) within Blackboard Learn:

- Academic Resource Center: buy textbooks and supplies, access academic catalogs and programs, register for classes, and more.
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities: provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links.
- Office of Disability Accommodation: ODA exists to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence.
- Counseling and Testing Services: CTS provides counseling services to the UNT community as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing and other tests.
- UNT Libraries: online library services
- Online Tutoring: chat in real time, mark up your paper using drawing tools and edit the text of your paper with the tutor's help.
- The Learning Center Support Programs: various program links provided to enhance the student experience.
- Supplemental Instruction: program for every student, not just for students that are struggling.
- UNT Writing Lab: offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate, and graduate.
- Math Tutor Lab: located in GAB, room 440.
- Succeed at UNT: how to be "a successful student" information.

COURSE TOPICS, READING AND QUIZ/EXAM SCHEDULE

Week	Month/ Day	Readings	Discussions, Assignment, & Exams
1	Jan 13 17	Chapter 1: An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality	Introduction Discussion & Discussion 1 Syllabus quiz & Quiz 1
2	18 24	Chapter 3: The American Class System	Discussion 2 & Quiz 2
3	25 31	Chapter 4: The Upper Class and the Power Elite	Discussion 3 & Quiz 3
4	Feb 1 7	Chapter 5: The Middle Classes and the Changing Economy	Discussion 4 & Quiz 4
5	8 14	Chapter 6: Poverty and the Poor	Discussion 5
6	15 21	<i>*no new readings, review for exam</i>	Quiz 5
7	22 28	<i>*no new readings</i>	Mid-term Exam
8	29 March 6	Chapter 7: Stratification Systems and Social Mobility	Discussion 6, Quiz 6 & Brainstorming Assignment
	7 13	Spring Break	
9	14 20	Chapter 8: Ideology and Legitimation of Inequality	Discussion 7 & Quiz 7
10	21 27	Chapter 9: Public Policy and the Class System	Discussion 8 & Quiz 8
11	28 April 3	Chapter 10: Racial and Ethnic Stratification I (Differentiation)	Discussion 9 & Quiz 9
12	4 10	Chapter 10: Racial and Ethnic Stratification II	Discussion 10 & Quiz 10
13	11 17	Chapter 12: Political Inequality	Discussion 11
14	18 24	<i>*no new readings</i>	Quiz 11 & Analysis Paper
15	25 May 1	<i>*no new readings</i>	<i>Review for Final Exam</i>
	May 2-8 finals	Final: May 4-6	

*Weeks in this online course start on Saturday (except the first week) and end on Friday at 11:59 p.m.

*Readings, assignments, and discussions will be due on the last day of the week, Friday at 11:59 p.m.

*Exams will be the exception to the Saturday-Friday week. Exams will open on Thursdays and close on Saturdays at 11:59 p.m. Monday-Wednesday on Exam weeks can be used for study or catch-up work if you prefer.

*The Final will open on Monday and close on Wednesday of final exams week.