**SYLLABUS**

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS FALL 2025

SOCI 3330 SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Credit Hours 3

In-person Class       Tu/Th 3:30PM-4:50PM                 SAGE  354

**Professor / Instructor Contact Information**Milan Zafirovski, Professor

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**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**Pre-requisites                           None
Instructor permissions             Not required

## Course Description

The course explores bases of social inequality and stratification, including status, power and mobility in social systems; the influence of stratification on behavior; and class structure in the United States. The Sociology Department also advises this course for students planning sociology graduate work.  More specifically, 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. The course places emphasis 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. While taking into due consideration the observation about the ubiquity of social inequality across human society and over historical time, the course centers its attention on the United States and other comparable contemporary societies. This course applies a thorough comparative-historical perspective on social stratification, by comparing and contrasting the United States and other developed societies over time.

The course combines sociological methods and concepts with empirical observations and facts to examine in objective scientific fashion issues of social inequality, for example, poverty, wealth/income disparities, political inequality, and the like. The course utilizes sociological methods, concepts, and data for the sake of a better understanding and explaining social inequality and social stratification in contemporary communities and larger societies. Specific instructional methods include online lectures presenting main sociological concepts and empirical facts of social inequality and social stratification through course outlines, online discussions, and the like. The profile and perspective of this course is mostly sociological. Nonetheless, the course will often combine this sociological perspective on social inequality and social stratification with those of other social sciences, especially anthropology, political science and history. In this regard, the course will have a thorough inter-disciplinary orientation, which is necessitated by the (multi-disciplinary) character—economic, political, historical, and cultural--of the subject of social inequality. Given this orientation, the course can be interesting and challenging both for students with majors/minors in sociology and for those majoring in such social sciences as anthropology, history, political science, as well as psychology, economics, business, etc. However, the course is not limited to social-science students, but can also be of interest and use for those in the physical and other sciences, especially biology (e.g. the issue of the role of biological determinants in social inequality and human behavior overall). Preferably, students should possess some elementary preparation in sociology and related social sciences at the introductory level. Given its intermediate character, the course can serve as a stepping-stone for further studies of social inequality and social stratification on undergraduate as well as graduate levels.

## Course Structure

The format of the course will be fully (100%) online. Instructor-student interaction and that with fellow students will primarily take place in Canvas throughout the semester, along with a video conference using Zoom if needed. The length of the semester is 14 weeks of content, including preparing for, as through synthesize and summarizing information and reviews of questions, and taking exams. Content delivery proceeds through learning modules the number of which also is 14 in the course. The units/modules are directly associated with the number of weeks so that there is one module per week. The course presents each particular course subject or lesson by a learning module. A learning module includes learning objectives that it aims to reach for that particular lesson, lesson content with sub-contents, summary, and assignments for students.

## Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to (numbered in order of presentation):

1. Recall, define and identify concepts of social inequality and social stratification,
2. Compare and contrast forms of social inequality and social stratification,
3. Analyze and explain processes in social inequality and social stratification,
4. Evaluate and predict trends in social inequality and social stratification,
5. Apply and illustrate concepts, forms, processes and trends of social inequality and social stratification in real life,
6. Construct and formulate an ideal system of social inequality and social stratification for contemporary society,
7. Propose and argue possible solutions to certain problems or questions of social inequality and social stratification in contemporary society,
8. Synthesize and summarize main concepts and facts of social inequality and social stratification.

## Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course. However, in order to ensure their being successful in this course students will need to:

* Identify and reflect on current social trends and issues, including those relating to social inequality and social stratification, along with some familiarity with the theoretical foundation that sociology and other social sciences provide.
* Cite sources, giving credit to where you obtain information.
* Network with others and utilize tact when offered differing perspectives.
* Make the commitment to spend at least 10 hours a week reading the assignments, reflecting on the material covered, and participating in other activities throughout the course

## Required Texts

Martin Marger. Social Inequality: Patterns and Processes. McGraw Hill.  6th edition. ISBN 9780078026935



Supplementary readings

Edward Wolff. Top Heavy: Increasing Inequality of Wealth in America and What Can Be

Done about It.  New Press. ISBN-13: 9781565846654



**Course Requirements**

*Exam Requirements*

This course has simple exam requirements, namely objective exams that make the grading process as simply and objective as possible. In this course there will be three exams, including the first, midterm and final examination (see course schedule). The format of the exams will have short, clear multiple-choice questions (usually 50). The exams will be objective such to evaluate students’ reading, knowledge, and grasp of the readings. Exam scores will be computer-generated and so will be the final grade. Therefore, there will be no subjective elements in how exam scores and the final grade are determined. The worth of each exam will be 100 points (maximum). Exams will be given and taken in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences during the specified time period and with specific time limits (e.g., 1 hour, which is more than 1 minute per exam question).

Failure to take an exam, without proper documented justification, during the specified time period (see below) will result in a zero (0) score for the missed exam. If an exam is missed with documented justification during the specified period, make-up exams can be taken either in person (closed books and notes) in the UNT Department of Sociology or on CANVAS no later than 2 days after the specified exam period. This applies only to the first two exams, but no final make-up exams will be given after the specified time period. Therefore, no incompletes will be given in case of a failure to take an exam during the specified time period without documented justification.

Each exam may be taken only once (in one attempt). The only basis for dispensing credits/grades is objective performance and merit. This ensures maximum fairness in grading. It is students’ own responsibility for class notes, outlines, announcements, etc. The professor will be always and maximally available to students to address their queries and concerns.

*Additional Course Requirements*

Additional course requirements include quizzes, discussions, class attendance, and a semester assignment consisting of an extensive review of supplementary readings.

*Quizzes*

Quizzes are given every week as feasible (see the weekly schedule in the last part of the syllabus) and cover the reading assignment for that week. Quizzes are required and provide additional points that will be added to and thus increase total exam scores. The format of quizzes will be short, clear multiple-choice questions (usually 5). Quizzes test students’ reading, knowledge, and recall of the readings. Quiz scores will be computer-generated and there will be no subjective elements in how they are determined. The worth of each quiz will be 5 points (maximum) with a correct answer being worth 1 point. Quizzes will be given and taken in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences during the specified time and with specific time limits (e.g., 5 minutes, thus 1 minute per quiz question).

*Discussions*

Discussions will take place after lectures and discuss the reading assignments for the week. Discussions are also required and provide additional points that will be added to and increase exam scores. Discussions will take in groups during each class session and are worth 0-2 points per discussion, with a total of 0-4 points per week.

*Class Attendance*

Class attendance is required and needed to take required quizzes once a week and participate in required discussions twice a week, along with exams in the semester, and to earn points for these assignments. The rule is no class attendance, no points for quizzes and discussions, which are used to calculate final grades.

*Semester Assignment*

A semester optional (not required) assignment or project consists of an extensive and in-depth review of supplementary reading Edward Wolff. Top Heavy. Instructions for the review are writing between 4 and 10 full pages, double-spaced, font 12, margin 1, covering the entire reading, minus tables, numbers, and notes, extensively cite/quote the reading with page numbers, though the review should not be a full literal copy of the book. The completed review should be submitted by the due date specified below.

The review of supplementary reading is worth between 1 and 10 points depending on its quantity and qualify as specified below.

A review that is long less than 4 pages and without any book support such as citations or data is worth between 1 point.

A review that is long less than 4 pages and with book support such as citations or data is worth between 2 points.

A review that is long 4 pages and without any book support such as citations or data is worth 3 points.

A review that is long 4 pages and with book support such as multiple citations or data is worth 4 points.

A review that is long between 5-9 pages and without any book support such as citations or data is worth between 4 and 8 points depending on length.

A review that is long between 5-9 pages and with book support such as multiple citations or data is worth between 5 and 9 points depending on length.

A review that is long 10 pages and without any book support such as multiple citations or data is worth 9 points.

A review that is long 10 pages and with book support such as multiple citations or data is worth 10 points.

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Any use, for written assignments such as the review of supplementary readings or discussions when applicable, of sources outside of the syllabus, including materials from other classes, online sources, artificial intelligence (AI) programs and the like, is not permitted and will be sanctioned as academic dishonesty and with a failing grade (F) for the entire class.

Especially, the use of AI to write discussions or reviews/papers and any other class assignments is prohibited and AI plagiarism punished as academic dishonesty with failing grades and further university sanctions.

Acceptable Student Behavior:Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)

ADA Accommodation Statement. UNT 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students 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. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu

Remote Instruction Statement: Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a computer to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn.

**Grading**

Exam 1 = 100 points maximum, required.

Midterm exam = 100 points maximum, required.

Final exam = 100 points maximum required.

Quizzes = 5 points maximum each required

Discussions = 4 points maximum each, required.

Maximum points from exams = 300, required.

Maximum points from quizzes = 55, required.

Maximum points from discussions = 45, required (1 additional point added to the last discussions).

Total points possible from course requirements = 400

Maximum extra-points from assignment/review of supplementary reading = 10 (optional)

Total points possible for semester from all class activities = 410

Grades will be determined according to the grading scale below.

Total Points 400 and over-360 = A

Total Points 359-320 = B

Total Points 319-280 = C

Total Points 279-240 = D

Total Points 239-0 = F

Grading scale by total points/4 for simplifying

Average Points 90-100 and over = A

Average Points 80-89 = B

Average Points 70-79 = C

Average Points 60-69 = D

Average Points below 60 = F

*Grade-related Policies*

**Late Work:**

Late work in this course will not be accepted, including exams, quizzes, discussion posts and assignments/reviews, after the deadline. All work that is failed to perform and submitted by the due date will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

## Extra Credit**:**

Extra credit opportunities in this course include a semester assignment in the form of a review of the supplementary reading.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades must be requested in writing at least one week before Final Exam Week. Requests for Incompletes must be accompanied by documentation of the reason that the course cannot be completed before the end of the semester, and are only considered if at least 50% of course exams and assignments have been completed with a passing grade.

**Assignments By Weeks**

(Please note that course schedule is subject to change when/if necessary)

Week 01, August 19-August 21, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 1 An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality, in Marger, pp. 1-25.

Discussions 1.1, 1.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 1—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 02, August 26-28, 2025 Reading Assignment:  Chapter 3 The American Class System, in Marger, pp. 54-81.

Discussions 2.1, 2.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 2—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 03, September 02-04, 2025        Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 The Upper Class and the Power Elite, in Marger, pp. 82-110.

Discussions 3.1, 3.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 3—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 04, September 09-11, 2025 Review, study for and take Exam 1

 Exam 1-- mandatory activity for grade, covers previous chapters, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 05, September 16-18, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 The Middle Classes and the Changing Economy, in Marger, pp. 111-145.

Discussions 4.1, 4.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 4—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 06, September 23-25, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 Poverty and the Poor in Marger, pp. 146-182.

Discussions 5.1, 5.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 5—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 07, September 30-October 02, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 Stratification Systems and Social Mobility, in Marger, pp. 183-219.

Discussions 6.1, 6.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 6—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 08, October 07-09, 2025 Review, study for and take Midterm Exam

 Midterm Exam—covers Chapters after Exam 1, mandatory activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 09, October 14-16, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 8 Ideology and Legitimation of Inequality, in Marger, pp. 220-254.

Discussions 7.1, 7.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 7—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 10, October 21-23, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 Public Policy and the Class System, in Marger pp. 255-288.

Discussions 8.1, 8.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 8—required activity for grade on in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 11, October 28-30, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 Racial and Ethnic Stratification I (Differentiation), in Marger, pp. 289-295.

Discussions 9.1, 9.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 9—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 12, November 04-06, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 10  Racial and Ethnic Stratification II, in Marger, pp. 295-329.

Discussions 10.1, 10.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 10—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 13, November 11-13, 2025 Reading Assignment: Chapter 12 Political Inequality, in Marger, pp. 365-403

Discussions 11.1, 11.2--required activity for grade.

 Quiz 11—required activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.

Week 14, November 18-20, 2025 Honors presentations

November 25-27, 2025 Thanksgiving Break--No classes

Week 15, December 02-04, 2025 Review and Study for the Final Exam

Pre-finals days

 Last **Regular Class Meeting**

Review of supplementary reading due—optional activity for extra points.

December 09, 2025 Final Exam--covers Chapters 8, 9, 10, 12, after the Midterm Exam, mandatory activity for grade, in person or on CANVAS according to student preferences.