

SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

FALL 2026

SOCI 3330/400, 431 SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL

STRATIFICATION Credit Hours 3

Internet Class mandatory or optional online meeting times and requirements to be announced and specified (see below)

Professor / Instructor Contact Information

Milan Zafirovski, Professor

SYCAMORE 288G

Office hours in person Monday 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m., online Monday-Friday through 9 p.m.

Email address Milan.Zafirovski@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant information to be announced

About the Professor / Instructor

Milan Zafirovski is professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Texas. He received his doctoral degree in sociology from Florida International University, Miami in 1999. He teaches Social Stratification, Community Organization, Social Problems, and Sociology of Work for undergraduate students, and Sociological Theory, Social Stratification and Political Economy for graduate students.

**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

Pre-requisites	None
Instructor permissions	Not required

Course Description

The course explores bases of social differentiation; status, power and mobility in social systems; influence of stratification on behavior; 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.

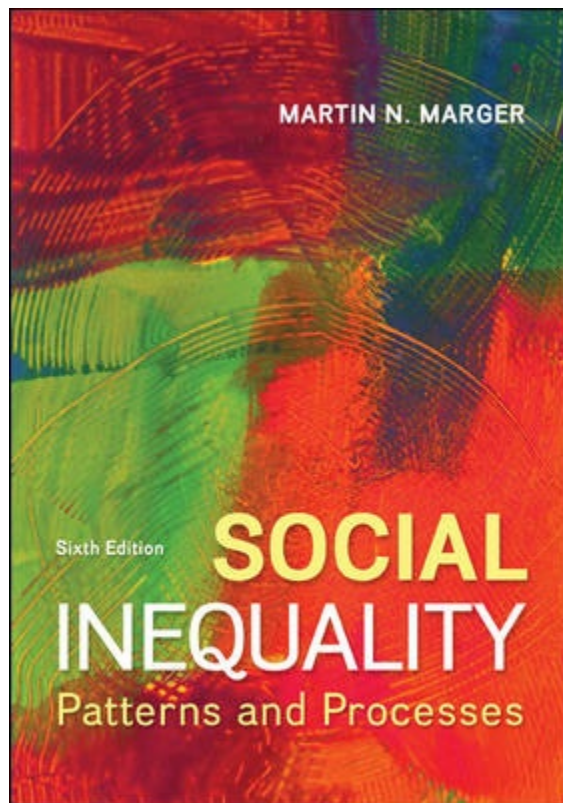
Prerequisites

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

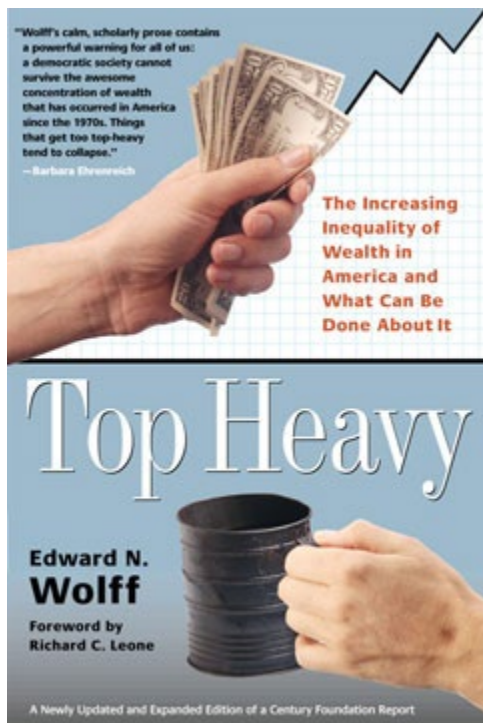
Required Texts

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



If you are having problems accessing the reading we recommend that you download the free application Seeing AI (Links to an external site.) on your smartphone. This application will scan the reading material and narrate it for you. If you are experiencing issues with the app and/or are still unable to access the reading please contact your instructor or the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to submit an accommodation request.

Communication

Instructor: Professor Milan Zafirovski, Professor Office Hours: Monday 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. or by appointment at office – Sycamore 288G Email: Milan.Zafirovski@unt.edu

I want to make myself as available as possible to all students, so I place no limitations on when students can contact me. The primary tool for communicating directly with students will be email or the learning management system in CANVAS. Students should send personal concerns or questions to my email address or to the learning management system. Students can expect to receive a response to their emails within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner) and within 48 hours over the weekend. The time frame in providing feedback on written assignments and on posting grades will be a week from the due date. In situations in which I am not able to provide feedback during that time frame, I will inform students of the time of providing it by an Announcement. I will typically participate in and assess discussions after the due date and following the posting of student original posts.

Additional communication policies and netiquette for the course, such as CLEAR Online Communication Tips, are provided in Module Start.

Late work in this course will not be accepted, including assignments, exams, quizzes, and discussion posts after the deadline. All work performed and submitted after the due date will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence (Links to an external site.) and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Course Requirements

Students will access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly content area of the CANVAS course. Students will follow and access all online lectures provided in Course Modules. Students will complete the assigned 'online' exams and quizzes by accessing Modules in the CANVAS course. Quizzes and exams are located in Modules. Students will respond to posted online course discussion questions using the CANVAS discussion tool. Online participation through discussions is required. Each student should post at least 1 discussion per week based on the readings and lectures. Students will complete and submit assignments electronically using the CANVAS assignment tool if such assignments are specifically required. Student will complete an on-going semester project in accordance with the instructions given in this syllabus and the online course if such assignments are specifically required.

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 only online (UNT CANVAS) during the specified time period and with specific time limits (e.g., 1 hour minimum).

Failure to take an online 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 online exam is missed with documented justification during the specified period, make-up exams can be taken either online or in person (closed books and notes) in the UNT Department of Sociology 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.

Exams cannot be retaken or continued either online or in person because of 'bad' Internet connection and other computer 'problems'. It is student responsibility to have a proper Internet connection and computer. Online computer-generated exam scores are final and cannot be changed under any circumstances (just as SAT or GRE scores

cannot be changed). Each exam may be taken only once (in one attempt), and any attempts to take the exam again will be an act of academic dishonesty and pursued accordingly. Exams must be taken by each student individually and independently of other students, and not in groups and collaboratively; if it is determined that an online exam is taken in groups and collaboratively, this will be treated as academic dishonesty and pursued accordingly. There is no 'curving' of exam scores. 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 online and in office to address their queries and concerns.

Technical instructions (from UNT CLEAR). Avoid using a wireless connection for exams unless one is certain of its reliability. Take exams using a supported web browser on a computer or laptop rather than using an iPad. If using an iPad, the Chrome browser is recommended. Contact the UIT Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 for assistance in the event of technical problems affecting the ability to access or complete a test.

Additional Course Requirements

Additional course requirements include quizzes, participation in discussions, 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 only online (UNT CANVAS) during the specified time and with specific time limits (e.g., 5 minutes minimum).

Discussions

Discussions are also on a weekly basis, required and provide additional points that will be added to and increase total exam and quiz scores. Discussions are mandatory and worth between 1 and 5 points per 1 weekly discussion forum as follows. A rubric is provided which explains the expectations and point distribution for this assignment as follows.

Discussions under 100 words but more than 60 words and without any textbook support such as citations or data are worth 1 point each.

Discussions with 100 or more words and without any textbook support such as citations or data are worth 2 points each.

Discussions with 100 or more words but less than 200 words and with textbook support such as several citations or data are worth 3 points each.

Discussions with 200 or more words and with textbook support such as several citations or data are worth 4 points each.

Discussions with 250 or more words and with textbook support such as several citations or data are worth 5 points each.

Discussions can be very useful in preparing for the first, midterm and the final exam.

The discussion forums are primarily related to the textbook readings, as well as other readings and resources and activities as available. Upon completion or near completion of the assigned readings and activities, students are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your learning community peers. As specified above, student contributions to discussion forums will be graded for quality, timeliness, linking together readings to real-life activities, and above all being grounded in readings.

Discussions close a week after the last discussion topic. In order for students to receive proper scores higher than zero, their discussions should be original posts so that students initiate and write them first, as different from replies to others, which normally do not receive positive scores. In addition, student discussions should follow additional instructions as specified for discussion forums. In sum, these instructions are that discussions should be (1) original posts, (2) follow the above guidelines for scoring, (3) are preferably based on the textbook overall, and (4) give specific textbook support such as citations or data for receiving better scores.

Optional Activities for Extra-Credits

Semester Assignment

A semester optional (not required) assignment or project consists of an extensive and in-depth review and critical analysis 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 the reading, though the review should not be a full literal copy of the book. The completed analysis should be submitted by the due date specified below. The analysis of supplementary reading is worth between 1 and 10 points depending on its quantity and qualify as specified below.

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

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

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

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

An analysis 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.

An analysis 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.

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

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

Alternatively, students can write an optional paper that connects or integrates their work experience, if any, with some class concepts and/or facts. The paper integrating work experience with class concepts and/or facts is also worth between 1 and 10 points depending on its quantity and quality as specified below.

A paper that is long 1 page is worth 1 point.

A paper that is long 2 pages is worth 2 points.

A paper that is long 3 pages is worth 3 points.

A paper that is long 4 pages is worth 4 points.

A paper that is long 5 pages is worth 5 points.

A paper that is long 6 pages is worth 6 points.

A paper that is long 7 pages is worth 7 points.

A paper that is long 8 pages is worth 8 points.

A paper that is long 9 pages is worth 9 points.

A paper that is long 10 pages 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 discussions and the review of supplementary readings, 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 hence with a failing grade (F) both for a specific assignment and for the entire class. Especially, the use of AI to write discussions, reviews/papers and any other class assignments is prohibited and AI plagiarism punished as academic dishonesty with failing grades and further university sanctions.

Course Activities and Assessments

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 = 5 Points Maximum Each (Required)

Grades will be determined as follows:

Maximum Points From Exams = 300 (required)

Maximum Points From Quizzes = 55 (required)

Maximum Points From Discussions = 55 (required)

Total Points Possible From Course Requirements = 410

Maximum Extra-Points From Assignment/Review Of Supplementary Reading = 10 (Optional)

Total Points Possible for Semester From All Class Activities = 420

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 easier understanding

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 performed and submitted after the due date will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence (Links to an external site.) and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Turn-around Time: Graded work will be returned within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, an announcement will be made to the class.

Grade Disputes: Grade disputes or appeals should follow UNT policies and procedures (see UNT policy on Grade Appeals (Links to an external site.)).

Extra Credit

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

Assignments By Weeks

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

Week 01, August 17-24, 2026

Reading Assignment: Chapter

1 An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality, in Marger, pp. 1-25.

August 21, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Discussions 1--required activity for grade. Quiz 1—required activity for grade, on
Week 02, August 24-31, 2026 American Class System, in Marger, pp. 54-81.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 The Discussions 2--required activity for grade.
January 28, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 2—required activity for grade, on
Week 03, August 31-September 07, 2026 Upper Class and the Power Elite, in Marger, pp. 82-110.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 The Discussions 3--required activity for grade.
September 04, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 3—required activity for grade, on
Week 04, September 07-14, 2026 September 11, 2026 covers previous chapters, on CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Review, study for and take Exam 1 Exam 1-- mandatory activity for grade,
Week 05, September 14-21, 2026 Middle Classes and the Changing Economy, in Marger, pp. 111-145.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 The Discussions 4--required activity for grade.
September 18, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 4—required activity for grade, on
Week 06, September 21-28, 2026 and the Poor in Marger, pp. 146-182.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 Poverty Discussions 5--required activity for grade.
September 25, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 5—required activity for grade, on
Week 07, September 28-October 05, 2026 Stratification Systems and Social Mobility, in Marger, pp. 183-219.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 Discussions 6--required activity for grade.
October 02, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 6—required activity for grade, on
Week 08, October 05-12, 2026 Exam	Review, study for and take Midterm

October 09, 2026 Exam 1, mandatory activity for grade, on CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Midterm Exam—covers Chapters after
Week 09, October 12-19, 2026 Ideology and Legitimation of Inequality, in Marger, pp. 220-254.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 8
	Discussions 7--required activity for grade.
October 16, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 7—required activity for grade, on
Week 10, October 19-26, 2026 Policy and the Class System, in Marger pp. 255-288.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 Public
	Discussions 8--required activity for grade.
October 23, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 8—required activity for grade on
Week 11, October 26-November 02, 2026 and Ethnic Stratification I (Differentiation), in Marger, pp. 289-295.	Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 Racial
	Discussions 9--required activity for grade.
October 30, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 9—required activity for grade on
Week 12, November 02-09, 2026 10 Racial and Ethnic Stratification II, in Marger, pp. 295-329.	Reading Assignment: Chapter
	Discussions 10--required activity for grade.
November 06, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 10—required activity for grade on
Week 13, November 09-16, 2026 Political Inequality, in Marger, pp. 365-403	Reading Assignment: Chapter 12
	Discussions 11--required activity for grade.
November 13, 2026 CANVAS, 12.00AM-11.59PM.	Quiz 11—required activity for grade on
Week 14, November 16-23, 2026 chapters for the Final Exam	Review and study the previous
November 23-29, 2026	Thanksgiving Break--No classes
November 30-December 07, 2026	Pre-finals days and the Final Exam
December 02-03, 2026	Pre-finals days
December 03, 2026	Last Regular Class Meeting

Review of supplementary reading due—
optional activity for extra points.
Reading day--no classes

December 04, 2026

December 07, 2026
Final Exam--covers Chapters 8, 9, 10,
12, after the Midterm Exam, mandatory activity for grade, on CANVAS, 12.00AM-
11.59PM.