Social Class & Inequality—SOCI 4312.001

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Office: Bay Hall 347
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Course Description:
This course provides a broad introduction to the field, including a review of classical theoretical frameworks addressing inequality in societies. We examine the evolution and institutionalization of social class systems in industrialized societies; the basic elements of inequality—economics, prestige, and politics, as well as life chances, life styles, and social mobility. In this course, the emphasis will be the U.S. social class structure; however, for comparison purposes, other nations will be discussed. We will be spending a significant portion of our class time examining the consequences of social inequality.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to:
• To identify essential concepts, theories, methods of research used in sociology to examine social inequality
• To explain the evolution and institutionalization of industrialized class systems
• To describe the basic elements of inequality—economics, prestige, and politics
• To explain how the United States’ class structure influences life chances and life styles
• To describe of social mobility in the U.S

Course Requirements:

Required Reading:
➢ Class text:

Attendance:
Students are expected to attend class having read the assigned material. Research indicates a strong relationship between class attendance and the final grade earned.

Assignments:
The class meeting before an assigned chapter, an assignment will be distributed to the students. Students are expected to complete the assignment and turn in the assignment within the first ten minutes of class. Each assignment will require a 2-4 page write up answering the questions posed to the student. Students will be expected to cite material from the relevant chapter. There are a total of eleven chapters for which assignments will be made. Of those eleven assignments, students will be expected to complete and submit ten assignments.

Write-ups are expected to be written in formal English, using correct grammar and punctuation. Papers must have one-inch margins. They must be double spaced, using Times New Roman 12-pitch font. Failure to comply with these protocols will compromise your grade. Papers can be submitted early for feedback. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
Exams:
There will be three in-class exams covering the Rothman text. The first exam will cover chapters 1-4. The second exam will cover chapters 5-7. The third exam will cover chapters 8-11. Answers must be in short answer/essay format. For each exam, you will have the entire class period to complete the exam.

Social Strata Activities:
You will draw (lottery style) an annual household income. The income distribution in the classroom will mirror the distribution of household incomes for the Corpus Christi area as reported by the U.S. Census report. You will be given a social strata activities packet. You will need to follow the directions in this packet beginning with constructing a budget, finding a place to live and a means for transportation, and providing for two children (one age 9; the other age 3 months). There are two requirements for this activity; first a write-up due in November and, second, a poster due on the day of the final by 11:10am (10 minutes after the final is scheduled to begin). Detailed information will be provided at a later date.

Grid of Grade Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Weight of Final Grade</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I (Ch. 1-4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Short Answer/Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II (Ch. 5-7)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Short Answer/Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam III (Ch. 8-11)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Short Answer/Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (10 of 11)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Throughout the semester</td>
<td>Short Answer/Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Strata Write Up</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Short Answer to specific Qs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Strata Poster</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Day of Final</td>
<td>Poster Discussion</td>
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Course Policies:

Rothman Exams.
For the Rothman Exams, we will be watching a video/documentary the day(s) prior to the exam day, you will be given a prompt. You will be asked to write a response to the prompt on the day the exam is scheduled. You will be allowed to bring with you a 3x5” notecard with handwritten notes on the notecard. While you are permitted to use a notecard, you must draft your response to the prompt in class. Should you miss a scheduled exam, you will be able to make up the exam, however the format of the exam will not be the same AND you WILL NOT be able to use a notecard during the make-up exam.

Social Strata Activities Write Up: The write up must be typed. You must follow the guidelines provided in the social strata activities packet; failure to do so will result in failing this portion of the course requirements. You must answer all questions from the packet. Late papers will be penalized 15 points for every 24-hour period following the deadline.

Social Strata Activities Poster: The poster is to be submitted on the day of the final (DECEMBER 12th), ten minutes after the final is scheduled to begin. Posters will be mounted in the classroom for all students to exam. Your poster should have the same information as that which was included in your write up. The poster should be informative enough that students would NOT need to speak with you in order to answer questions they will be assigned (these questions are included in your social strata activities packet). You will be evaluated on the comprehensiveness of the information you provide. I, in addition to your peers, will be evaluating your poster. Your poster will be assigned a number and students will be asked to rank elements of your poster on a scale of 0-5; with “0” indicating the absence of that element and “5” indicating that the information was comprehensive and easy to locate. For every 10 minute period after, your grade will be penalized 15 points. It is important that students get their work to class on time, so that the analysis of the information can begin.
COURSE POLICIES:

Exams:
Students need to bring a pencil or a pen to the exam. Once the exam is distributed, you will be permitted to leave the classroom ONLY AFTER you have completed your exam. Those arriving after the first exam is submitted WILL NOT be permitted to take the exam. The cover page and the essay portion of the exam will be returned one week after the administration of the exam. The short-answer portion of the exam will not be returned. If you would like to review the short-answer portion, you can come to my office during my office hours to do so. I will keep exams not picked up on the day they are distributed. If you have questions regarding the grade of your exam, you can come to my office to discuss those with me. Be aware that I reserve the right to modify your grade UP or DOWN, after reviewing your exam.

Missed Exams:
Every effort should be made to be present for ALL scheduled exams. The dates of the exams are posted on the calendar. Students will be permitted to make up exams; however, be aware that make up exams tend to be MUCH MORE challenging than the scheduled exams and the format of the exam will be disclosed only upon the administration of the exam. Make up exams will be administered on the day of the final, AFTER you’ve completed your last section exam.

Absences:
Attendance is expected but will not be taken. You are an adult responsible for your own time and your own actions. Material will be presented and discussed in class, and that material often appears on exams. It is in your interest to attend. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that regular attendance is positively correlated with grades.

Grading:
I reserve the right to curve or NOT curve grades. If there is a particular grade that you NEED or WANT, work for it. Essays will be graded using a letter grade system: A++ indicates you’ve received full credit (aka: 100). A+ = 98, A = 95, A- = 92, A-/B+ = 90, B+ = 88, B = 85, etc. Extremely poor write ups which do not demonstrate any real mastery of the content will be assigned an F (50), and F- (25), or a zero, depending on the dearth of comments for which credit may be allocated.

Contacting the Professor:
Should you need to contact me, the best way to do so is via email. I check that multiple times, daily. When you do contact me, treat your email as a formal document. Use proper grammar and punctuation.

Electronic Devices:
LAP TOPS are not permitted in my class; however, electronic recording devices are. Should you wish to record the lectures/discussions, you are more than welcome to do so. All cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, and the like should be turned off prior to class beginning. You are not allowed to photograph my slides during lecture. A general power point is made available on blackboard. I encourage you to print the ppt and bring it to class with you.

Cheating Policy:
Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Should you be caught cheating, your name will be submitted to the Department Chair, as well as to the Vice President of Student Affairs. If you are caught cheating, you will get a zero on the exam/assignment, will not be allowed to retake the exam/assignment or resubmit the reaction paper, and can be assigned an F for the semester. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for the disciplinary procedures pertaining to academic dishonesty.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located at Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825.3466.

**STUDENTS with DISABILITIES**
The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825.5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

**Grade Appeal Process:**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**EMAIL**
You have your very own Islander e-mail account. I will be using this account should any correspondence be necessary. All university notifications will be using your Islander account to contact you. To access your Islander email, first go to S.A.I.L. for your new student ID number. Next, go to [http://newuser.tamucc.edu](http://newuser.tamucc.edu) for your new email account. For more information call 825.5618.