Sociology 450-001: Social Inequality
Winter Session
December 17, 2012 through January 8, 2013
Online - 3 credits

Instructor
Kate Gunby
gunby@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours by appointment
In Person in Social Sciences 426
Online via gchat

Course Description and Goals
This upper level course focuses on stratification, inequality and poverty in the United States. We will discuss the differences between these three related concepts and how they are interrelated. We will explore the extent of stratification, inequality and poverty, the causes and consequences of these phenomena, and how they are related to other societal factors like race and gender. Students will engage with the material and each other through online forum discussions. Students will develop their ability analyze, synthesize, apply, and evaluate the readings through written memos and a final project. This class is guided by student goals, which are established from the beginning and reviewed throughout the term. Based on their personal goals and interests, each student will design and complete their own final project on a topic of their choice.

Required Text

All other readings are available through D2L or otherwise specified in the syllabus.

Grade Evaluation

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<td>Introduction and Syllabus Quiz</td>
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Late assignments and final projects will not be accepted.

A Note about Grades
Your grade starts at 0 and you must earn your points. You are not entitled to a certain final grade, rather you earn your grades throughout the semester and your final grade will reflect how well you demonstrated your learning during the term. Grades are simply tools that assess your academic performance and relay that information back to you.

*Your grades do not reflect your intelligence, work ethic, potential, progress, talents, or worth.*

Introduction (2.5% of final grade)
Due Dec 17 (M) at 11:59pm in Dropbox in D2L
Your first assignment is to submit a note via dropbox that includes this information:
- Name
- Email address that I should use to contact you
• Year in school
• Hometown(s)
• Major(s) and minor(s)
• Sociology experience – both classes taken and other exposure to the discipline
• What do you hope to gain from this class?
• What other classes are you taking this semester?
• What other responsibilities (employment, sports, extracurricular activities, family, pets, etc) do you have this semester?
• What else do you want me to know about you?

Syllabus Quiz (2.5% of final grade)
Due Dec 17 (M) at 11:59pm in quiz area on D2L
The syllabus quiz is worth 2.5% of your final grade, and is used to insure that you have thoroughly read the syllabus. This quiz is open note, untimed, and you can take it an infinite number of times. While your score on the quiz is not worth a large portion of your class grade, you must earn 100% on your syllabus quiz to pass the class.

Goals Assessments (5% of final grade)
Due Dec 17 (M), Dec 21 (F), Jan 3 (Th), and Jan 8 (Tu) at 11:59pm in quiz area on D2L.
By midnight on the first day, Dec 17 (M), you should complete the Learning Goals Inventory that is in the quiz section of D2L. Everyone receives full credit for completing this quiz; there are no right or wrong answers. The Learning Goals Inventory allows everyone to assess their personal goals for this class and reflect on their role as a student and their personal philosophy of learning. I will refer back to these goals assessments to better focus and contextualize my individual feedback.

Twice in the middle of the class (Dec 21 (F) and Jan 3 (Th) by 11:59pm) there will be a new “quiz” that will simply ask you to write 100+ words to assess your progress, develop your plan for success, and (re)evaluate your priorities. Everyone receives full credit for submitting a reflection that meets the minimum word requirement; there are no right or wrong answers.

At the end of the course (Jan 8 (Tu) by 11:59pm) you will complete a final goals assessment where you compare your performance in the class with the goals you set in your Learning Goals Inventory. This serves as a time for reflection on your progress in the course. Once again, everyone receives full credit for completing this quiz; there are no right or wrong answers.

Chats with Kate (5% of final grade)
Due Dec 27(Th) and Jan 4 (F)
During the semester you should chat with me at least twice, one by Dec 27th and the other by Jan 4th. These chats can take place in person in my office by appointment (Social Sciences room 426) or online (in video, voice, or text format) using the google chat through your catmail account. Online chats can be scheduled in advance, or happen spontaneously. During the chats we can discuss your progress in the class, topics of confusion, final project ideas and details, your goals for the class, and anything else course related. At the end of our chats I will confirm if we have discussed enough substance for you to receive a full grade for the chat, or let you know what else we need to chat about.
Daily Memos (30% of final grade)
One memo is due for every day that there is a reading, for a total of 11 memos. Each memo should be four paragraphs long, and each paragraph should be at least four sentences long.

Paragraph 1: Summarize the reading’s main point(s).

Paragraph 2: Highlight several ideas and facts that stood out to you and explain why they stood out (explain why they were surprising, frustrating, inspiring, etc).

Paragraph 3: Apply ideas and facts from the reading to issues, events, phenomena, or information that you already know about.

Paragraph 4: Question and/or critique at least one of the reading’s findings or arguments.

Every memo should demonstrate your comprehension of the material and critical engagement with the reading. To receive full credit, please include page numbers to properly cite both ideas and quotations.

Discussion Posts and Etiquette (25% of final grade)
In addition to the first day introductions, you are required to participate in discussions in the forum on D2L. For each day that there is a reading you must start at least one topic by midnight and respond to two other topics by midnight the following day. In order for a post to receive full credit, it must have at least 100 words, cite the reading at least once including page numbers, and include a title that is descriptive of the discussion topic.

Your discussion posts should be respectful, courteous, and friendly. You are accountable for what you post. Whenever possible, provide context for your comments - explain where you are coming from and what you’re thinking. It can be hard to convey tone in online discussions, so feel free to make your tone explicit or add in casual indicators (such as “haha”, or the occasional smiley face) to avoid confusion and hurt feelings. Examples of good and bad posts are available in the discussion section on D2L.

Final Project (30% of final grade)
The goal for the final project is to apply what you have learned in this class in a way that is relevant to you and your interests. Most students choose to write an essay or policy paper on a current inequality issue (1,700-2,000 words). However, I am open to your ideas. If you want to do something else for your final project, you must contact me by Dec 28th to discuss it and get approval. I am happy to discuss project ideas with you at any time.

Your topic idea and outline are due via dropbox on Wednesday Jan 2nd. This insures that everyone starts their project in advance, has a viable idea, and receives initial feedback and guidance. More details on the topic and outline are available on D2L. The topic and outline make up 5% of your final grade.

If you would like feedback on a draft, or a series of drafts, please email them to me any time before January 8th, though earlier is better so that I have more time to look at your draft and you have more time to make revisions. Though they are optional, submitting a draft is the best way to insure that you get a good grade on your final paper! Along with revisions and suggestions, I will also send you a completed grade sheet so that you can see what grade you would get on your draft if you submit it without changes.
The final project is due on Tuesday January 8th by 11:59pm and is 25% of your final grade. A detailed rubric is available on D2L. Again, please come to me with any questions or concerns. I am happy to discuss your project with you at any time.

**Winter Session Online**

Taking a three credit class online in less than four weeks presents unique challenges. I have organized the course so that you may work ahead of schedule to accommodate for your obligations and winter activities. You may log in whenever you like and complete tasks as early as you want. If something comes up and you need more time to complete a task, contact me ASAP and I’ll try to be accommodating.

Online classes can feel isolating. The introduction assignment and mandatory discussion posts are designed to aid interactions with your peers. I hope that you will take full advantage of the discussion tools to connect with your classmates. The Chats with Kate make sure that we stay in touch, are on the same page, and that you’re getting the guidance you need. I encourage you to contact me via email, and also to chat with me by appointment or anytime you see that I’m logged in to gchat.

**TurnItIn.com**

The instructor reserves the right to utilize electronic means to help prevent plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to TurnItIn.com. Assignments submitted to TurnItIn.com will be included as source documents in TurnItIn.com’s restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Students can view the originality reports for their own work.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to observe the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. The Code can be found at: [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity). The work you turn in must be your own. All cases of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. In cases of academic dishonesty, the consequences will be worse than if you simply hadn’t submitted the assignment.

**Statement of Copyrighted Materials**

Students are advised that all lecture notes, lectures, study guides and other course materials disseminated by the instructor to the students, whether in class or online, are original materials and as such reflect intellectual property of the instructor or author of those works. All readings, study guides, lecture notes and handouts are intended for individual use by the student. Students may not distribute or reproduce these materials for commercial purposes without the express written consent of the instructor. Students who sell or distribute these materials for any use other than their own are in violation of the University’s Intellectual Property Policy (available at [http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip_policy.pdf](http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip_policy.pdf)). Violations of the instructors copyright may result in course sanctions and violate the Code of Academic Integrity.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must register with the Disability Resource Center. If you qualify for services through DRC, send your letter of accommodations to me as soon as possible. I want to work with you to ensure your full participation in this course.

**Course Schedule - everything is due by 11:59pm AZ time on the day listed**

**Week 1 (Dec 17 –21)**

Dec 17 (Mon)
- Introduction
- Syllabus Quiz
- Goals Assessment

Dec 18 (Tues)

Dec 19 (Weds)
- Massey ch 1 & 2

Dec 20 (Thurs)
- Massey ch 3

Dec 21 (Fri)
- Goals Assessment

**Week 2 (Dec 26 –28)**

Dec 26 (Weds)
- Massey ch 4

Dec 27 (Thurs)
- Massey ch 6
- Deadline for first Chat with Kate

Dec 28 (Fri)
- Deadline to contact me for alternative final project ideas
Week 3 (Jan 2 – 4)

Jan 2 (Weds)
- Massey ch 5
- Topic and Outline Due

Jan 3 (Thurs)
- Goals Assessment

Jan 4 (Fri)
- Deadline for second Chat with Kate

Week 4 (Jan 7 – 8)

Jan 7 (Mon)
- Last day to submit final project draft for feedback

Jan 8 (Tues)
- Final project due
- Goals Assessment due