

Social Inequality

SOC 445

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Spring 2019
March 26 - May 31
online
5 units

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the study of Social Inequality. This course explores some of the many ways that societies are unequal in their distributions of wealth, power, and prestige. We examine social inequality related to social class, race, and gender, including their contemporary manifestations and historical foundations.

Catalog Description

The distribution of wealth, power, and prestige in society.

COURSEWORK HOURS

Every credit hour of coursework carries an expectation of 3 hours of work (i.e., class time, reading, assignments, studying, etc.) per week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the core elements of the sociological study of social inequality, including:

- Foundational concepts and terms related to the study of social inequality
- Theoretical approaches to understanding social inequality
- Current research on social inequality
- Structural and institutional influences
- Policies, laws, and cultural norms that shape social inequality
- Patterns of inequality, historically and today

Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning Outcome

Identify and describe various theoretical perspectives regarding social inequality

Demonstrate knowledge about historical and current conditions that reflect social inequality.

Assessment

Students take written in-class exams demonstrating recognition of and ability to discuss basic sociological concepts and theories related to the study of social inequality.

Students participate in class discussions and activities and complete written assignments that explore both historical and present conditions.

Demonstrate knowledge about the structural and institutional forces that shape opportunities, resources, rewards, and power for different groups, both historically and presently.

Identify and assess policies, laws, and cultural norms that perpetuate historical and/or current conditions of social inequality, as well as potential and actual changes and consequences.

Students participate in class discussions and activities and complete written assignments that explore structural and institutional forces.

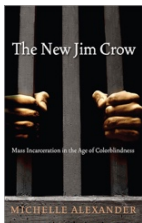
Students participate in class discussions and activities and complete written assignments that explore policies, laws, and cultural norms, as well as potential and actual changes to these.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

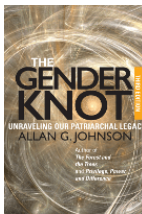
REQUIRED READING

Reading course materials is vital for success. You are responsible for thoroughly reading the assigned materials, integrating the information into assignments and discussions, and studying the materials in preparation for exams. Taking notes on readings is highly recommended. Your notes will help to remind you of important points and allow you to locate information quickly.

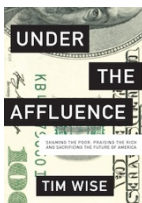
The required books for this course are:



Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.



Johnson, Allan G. 2014. *The Gender Knot: Unraveling Our Patriarchal Legacy*, 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.



Wise, Tim. 2015. *Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich, and Sacrificing the Future of America*. San Francisco, CA: City Lights Books.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Media Streaming Service Access and/or Library Access

This course explores documentaries that are available via inexpensive online streaming services such as Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, and Netflix. The documentaries may also be available via other free or subscription sources. At the beginning of the course, look at the assigned documentary titles and decide

which streaming services work for you. Some streaming services (e.g., Netflix) offer flat monthly fees for unlimited viewing, while other services offer each documentary for a small rental fee and more limited viewing time. Some streaming services have both options—such as Amazon, which offers rentals of documentaries for small fees and limited viewing or the option of an Amazon Prime subscription that includes many free documentaries (although not all are free, even with subscription—so double-check). You may also find many of the documentaries through your local library system. *Make sure you have a plan for how you will view the documentaries before you need to view them.*

NOTE-TAKING

Students are expected to take notes on all class lectures, discussions, activities, readings, and videos. All information encountered in the course, in any form, may be represented on any form of evaluation. Students benefit by developing a thorough understanding of each topic and by incorporating detailed information into any discussion. Your goal is to be able to discuss topics in the most informed and developed ways possible.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance and participation (via virtual presence in the online class) greatly enhance student performance. Students who regularly engage with course materials perform much better on assignments and quizzes than students who participate less frequently.

ASSIGNMENTS

Documentaries

Throughout the course, several documentaries provide additional information relevant to thinking about social inequality. Documentary reflections require watching and reflecting on the content of a documentary that relates to the course content. Students should take notes on the content to integrate into discussions, exams, and the white paper assignment.

Discussions

Throughout the course, students participate in discussions with their peers. Discussions provide opportunities to summarize content, share insights, clarify concepts, and develop new ideas and questions. The specific prompts for each discussion are available in Canvas (Modules).

Guidelines for discussions will be posted in Canvas. Discussions must be completed and submitted in Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the specified due date. Late discussions are not accepted.

White paper

Throughout the course, students will construct a white paper for one major topic of social inequality. A white paper is an evidence-based report that informs readers about an issue and presents possible options for addressing the issue, including potential solutions and policies.

Guidelines for the white paper are posted in Canvas. Papers must be completed and submitted in Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the specified due date. Late papers are accepted but penalized by 25% on the

earned grade. Late papers must be submitted within one week of the original due date in order to earn credit; beyond one week, no credit can be earned.

EXAMS

Exams are designed to help you demonstrate that you have carefully studied course materials and are able to answer questions concerning their content. Exams are not cumulative in terms of specific questions being repeated on more than one exam. However, the course materials build on each other. Thus, information that you learn early on will be necessary for understanding information that you learn later. Learning is cumulative.

Exam questions include standard types of questions (e.g., multiple choice, true/false, short answer, essay). Each exam includes a random subset of questions from a larger pool of questions. Because the set of questions is randomly chosen, each student will not necessarily answer the exact same questions as every other student, although there will likely be some overlap as well, and all questions will draw on the same topics. Students have 90 minutes to take the exam; at the end of this time allotment, the exam will automatically submit, unless the student has already submitted the exam.

During the exams, you may reference class materials, but may not work with others. In order to do well, you must read and study *before the exam*. Do not assume that you will do well simply because you can use class materials. You will not have time to look up every answer, so you must know most of the information beforehand. Use class materials only as a resource.

Exams must be taken by the due date except when a student provides documentation for a legitimate absence. Students should make every effort not to miss a scheduled exam for reasons outside of legitimate absences. A student who does miss an exam for an undocumented reason may reschedule the exam as a one-time courtesy with a 25% reduction on the earned grade. Students who miss more than one exam due to an undocumented reason may not make up subsequently missed exams. Exams that are missed for any reason must be taken within one week of the original exam date. Your professor will not contact students about missed exams. It is the student's responsibility to contact your professor about any missed or excused exam. **Note:** Make-up exams may or may not include the same questions as regularly scheduled exams.

Reviewing Exam Performance

Students may review their specific performances on weekly quizzes and exams (question by question) online in Canvas, immediately after the quiz is submitted, and after the due date has passed for exams.

Final Exam

The final exam consists of a writing assignment. The assignment requires students to discuss a series of prompts in the context of a formal writing submission that draws on course materials. Guidelines will be available in Canvas on the first day of final exams week. The assignment must be completed and submitted in Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the last scheduled day of final exams week. No late exams are accepted.

CANVAS

Canvas is required for this course. You will use this online resource to access the syllabus (and any updated schedules), announcements, readings, handouts, assignments, grades, and to submit work (<https://canvas.cwu.edu>). Students are expected to check Canvas on a daily basis in order to remain apprised of announcements, due dates, and other important information. Please review the information available at <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning> > Online Student Support, in order to familiarize yourself with Canvas.

It is each student's responsibility to ensure that they have uploaded the correct file when submitting an assignment in Canvas; please double-check that you have submitted the correct file in Canvas. If you experience an issue with Canvas that potentially hinders your ability to complete work (e.g., online quiz) by the listed due date, contact your instructor immediately via email and describe the issue(s). If you are unable to submit an assignment via Canvas, or are unsure about whether a submission was successful, email your professor with a copy of your assignment as a back-up. Students who do not successfully submit work via Canvas, and who fail to send a copy via email, will not be granted leniency; the submission will not be counted and/or will be considered late (if re-submitted later). If you experience ongoing problems with Canvas, please use any of the following technical support resources to find a solution.

Canvas Technical Support 24/7

- Toll Free Support Line: (877) 399-8897
- Email Canvas Support: support@instructure.com
- Finding Help with Canvas:
 - <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students>
 - <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/finding-help-canvas-0>

LockDown Browser

LockDown Browser is required for all online quizzes and exams. Campus lab computers are already equipped, but follow these steps to set up the browser on a personal computer:

1. Download LockDown Browser
 - a. <http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=715433924>
 - b. Be sure to do this well in advance, as download and installation times may vary.
2. Launch the browser.
3. Sign in to your CWU account.
4. Navigate to the course in Canvas.
5. Select the quiz you wish to take and begin.

GRADING

Grades can be accessed by logging in to Canvas and clicking Grades in the navigation.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	GPA Credit	Transcript Explanation	Definition of letter grade / Policy statement
A	94-100%	4.0	Excellent	Meets all objectives of the course and fulfills all requirements; performs at a level that reflects
A-	90-93%	3.7		

				excellence
B+	87-89%	3.3	Good	Meets all objectives of the course and fulfills all requirements; performs at a high level
B	84-86%	3.0		
B-	80-83%	2.7		
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory	Meets all objectives of the course and fulfills all requirements; performs at a satisfactory level
C	74-76%	2.0		
C-	70-73%	1.7		
D+	67-69%	1.3	Marginal Pass	Makes progress toward meeting the course objectives; fulfills course requirements at a substandard level
D	64-66%	1.0		
D-	61-63%	0.7		
F	0-60%	0	Failure	Fails to meet the course objectives; does not fulfill course requirements

Grade Breakdown

	<u>Percent</u>
Discussions	50%
Exams	30%
White paper	10%
Final Exam	10%
TOTAL	100%

COURSE POLICIES

SYLLABUS

Remaining enrolled in this course indicates consent to the guidelines, policies, and requirements outlined in this syllabus. Periodic changes to the course schedule may be necessary. Students will be given sufficient notice of such changes. Students are responsible for following any current or revised schedules. Learning is flexible, and so is our academic itinerary.

ABSENCES and MAKE-UP WORK

There is **no make-up work** unless an absence reflects a legitimate reason (see below) and you provide documentation for the absence(s). You **must** either 1) contact me *before* the scheduled due date with documentation of the reason that will prohibit you from completing the work by or on the scheduled due-date, or 2) provide documentation of the extreme circumstances that prohibited you from completing the work by or on the scheduled due-date.

If you know in advance that you will need to miss work that has an associated due date, contact me at least one week in advance to provide documentation and to schedule a time to turn in the work. If you miss coursework unexpectedly, you must contact me within **one week** explaining the reason for the absence, providing documentation or stating your intention to do so, and making arrangements for how/when the work will be made up. Failure to make this contact within one week (barring extreme circumstances) will forfeit any associated grade points.

Legitimate reasons for missing due dates for coursework **only** include extreme illness, injury, surgery, hospitalization, death of someone close to you, accidents, other unpreventable and unpredictable rare events, disability-related concerns, military service, court appearances, religious observance, or participation in university-approved activities. You **must** have written documentation for all absences for which you wish to be able to make up work (e.g., medical release form, funeral program, court document, etc.). **Do not** ask to be excused or to make up work for coursework that you miss due to vacations, “personal days,” missing your alarm, getting lost, or any other reason. You cannot make up work for (potential) full credit in these cases.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

In order to foster an environment that maximizes learning and prioritizes basic respect for others, students are required to uphold the following codes and practices:

- The Student Conduct Code in its entirety.
 - <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125>
 - https://www.cwu.edu/trustees/sites/cts.cwu.edu.trustees/files/OTS-7344.2_1.pdf
- Treat the course and all classroom participants with courtesy and respect.
 - Abstain from the following:
 - Dominating conversations. Make space for others to contribute.
 - Derogatory or sarcastic comments or devaluation aimed at others (students, professor, guests) in any way or form
 - Derogatory or sarcastic comments or devaluation of the course, class structure, and other course-related components in any way or form
 - Interruptions during class activities, discussions, lecture, videos, or any other component of the class
 - Interruptions include the following:
 - talking or making noise while others are speaking; during a class-wide discussion or activity; during a lecture; during a video; during any other component of class
 - reading during class
 - working on assignments for other classes
 - using electronic devices for purposes that are unrelated to taking notes
 - other rude, disparaging, or harassing behaviors as interpreted by other students and/or your professor
- Focus primarily on course-related activities and discussions during class.
- Mute volumes on cell phones and other devices.

Students who fail to practice appropriate classroom etiquette will face disciplinary action at the professor’s discretion. The first violation is subject to a verbal or written warning directed to the student. In the event of a second violation (or a severe first violation), any of the following actions (in isolation or in combination) are taken at the professor’s discretion:

- 1) An official university report is filed.
- 2) The student is asked to leave the classroom (or is removed by authorities). Students who are removed from the class are not permitted to return to any future class sessions until they meet with the professor and/or chair of the department and/or a representative from Student Success, at the professor’s discretion. During the period of removal from the

- classroom, the student is not welcome to attend class sessions and forfeits any associated grade points that might otherwise have been earned during the period of removal from the classroom.
- 3) The student is officially dropped from the course.
 - 4) The student is subject to university-authorized disciplinary measures, including probation, suspension, or expulsion.

COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE

Students may use their official CWU email account to correspond with the professor about course-related questions. Email messages from non-CWU accounts will not be addressed. Please abide by the following guidelines when using email to correspond about a course:

- Identify your full name and the course in which you are enrolled.
- Allow at least 24 hours for a response during the week.
 - During weekends, I am often able to provide a response; in the event that I am unable, you will receive a response on the next day on which the university is open. Do not necessarily expect responses during holidays; I will provide responses as I am able.

If your question is easily answered by information contained in the syllabus, I will refer you to the syllabus.

When communicating with any college/university instructors, the proper title is “Professor.” You may also refer to me as “Dr.” Please do not use titles such as Ms., Miss, or Mrs. My last name is pronounced *Sam-bluh-nay*.

Please exhibit courtesy and respect when interacting and communicating with everyone who is a member of the CWU campus (as well as people in all social situations and contexts outside of CWU).

GRADE BOOK

Students must retain all written and printed work (including the original computer document/file) throughout the quarter. In the rare event that a grade for completed work is not saved in the Canvas grade book, a student must be able to produce the physical copy of the work in order to receive credit. For printed (typed) work, the physical copy must include your professor’s original written feedback; re-printed copies will not be accepted. For online submissions, the computer document/file must be provided.

UNIVERSITY CLOSINGS and CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Class sessions may occasionally need to be cancelled due to official university closings, professional activities (e.g., conference attendance), or other reasons as determined by your professor or the university.

Class cancellations due to university closings

Class sessions that are cancelled due to official university closings waive all student responsibilities for in-class work, in-class submissions of work, and all online work that is due through Canvas. Due dates will automatically be shifted to the next day that the university is open.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

REGISTRATION

University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. For information about registration and withdrawal dates, access the Academic Calendar (<https://www.cwu.edu/registrar/course-information>).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to maintain academic integrity by avoiding dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication, and by reporting any violations to their professor. Academic honesty will not be tolerated in any form. Students identified as having violated academic honesty will fail the specific course requirement and/or the course as a whole and be referred to the appropriate academic authorities. A list of prohibited student conduct, including academic dishonesty, is available at the Washington State Legislature website, WAC 106-125-020 (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125-020>)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with what constitutes academic dishonesty. Regarding plagiarism, specifically, students are responsible for asking any questions *before* submitting written work. Use the following resource to understand plagiarism: <http://libguides.lib.cwu.edu/content.php?pid=644922>.

Consequences of academic dishonesty may include a warning, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion (WAC 106-125-030, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125-030>).

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITIES

Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with your professor. Students with disabilities should contact Student Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers in the course, including accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email ds@cwu.edu for more information.

SCHEDULE

All assignments must be completed and submitted in Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the scheduled due date. Each new section of material begins on a Monday, and the assignments for each section are due on a Sunday (except for the last week, when they are due on Friday).

The required documentaries for the course are

13th

Miss Representation

Inequality for All

Schedule					
Week	Dates	Days	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	Mar 26-31	T-Su	Racial inequality	<i>The New Jim Crow</i> - Chapters 1-2	<i>13th</i> discussion
2	Apr 1-7	M-Su	Racial inequality	<i>The New Jim Crow</i> - Chapters 3-4	discussion
3	Apr 8-14	M-Su	Racial inequality	<i>The New Jim Crow</i> - Chapters 5-6	discussion Exam 1
4	Apr 15-21	M-Su	Gender inequality	<i>The Gender Knot</i> - Chapters 1-3	discussion
5	Apr 22-28	M-Su	Gender inequality	<i>The Gender Knot</i> - Chapters 4-6	<i>Miss Rep</i> discussion
6	Apr 29-May 5	M-Su	Gender inequality	<i>The Gender Knot</i> - Chapters 7-9	discussion
7	May 6-12	M-Su	Gender inequality	<i>The Gender Knot</i> - Chapters 10-11	discussion Exam 2
8	May 13-19	M-Su	Class inequality	<i>Under the Affluence</i> - p. 29-140	<i>Inequality</i> discussion
9	May 20-26	M-Su	Class inequality	<i>Under the Affluence</i> - p. 141-257	discussion
10	May 27-June 2	M-Su	Class inequality	<i>Under the Affluence</i> - p. 258-313	discussion Exam 3
11	June 3 June 4 June 5 June 6 June 7	M T W Th F	Study day FINAL EXAM WEEK		white paper Final Exam