

Social Inequality 332
Wednesday 6:00 – 8:40 p.m. in MS 116
Rutgers University at Mercer County Community College

Instructor: J. Wilhelms

Email: jwilhelm@rci.rutgers.edu

Office hours: before or after class by appointment

Course Description:

Social Inequality is the study of unequal rewards or opportunities for different individuals within a group and groups within a society.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend each scheduled class. An excused absence is for a valid reason and obviously there are no point deductions if you are absent for a valid reason. Please send me an email if you expect to be absent for a valid reason. Each student gets one free unexcused absence, after which points will be deducted from your final grade, as follows: the 2nd unexcused absence results in a 5% deduction, the 3rd unexcused absence another 5% deduction, and so on. Absences, even for valid reasons, will make it more difficult for you to do well in the class.

Class Participation:

Class participation can add points to your final grade.

Classroom Conduct:

Please observe the following basic rules of courtesy and consideration during class: 1) please be on time for class; (2) turn off your cell phone and do not have it on your desk, in your lap, or otherwise visible during class; 3) do not have materials unrelated to the course open and/or on your desk during class, i.e., books for other courses, newspapers, crossword puzzles; 4) do not have your head down on the desk or be sleeping during class; 5) no computers in class, except for special circumstances. There will be a 10-minute break at approximately 7:15 p.m. to use the restroom, check your messages, etc. Failure to observe these basic rules of courtesy and consideration will result in point deductions from your final grade.

Students Requesting Special Accommodations:

Students requesting special accommodations will please follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>.

Academic Integrity:

For questions about academic integrity, please go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu> and <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources>. A 20 minute interactive tutorial on plagiarism and academic integrity is at <http://www.soc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html>

Diversity Statement:

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

Sakai:

Assigned readings, powerpoints for each topic, and grades are posted on sakai.

Tests:

1 st test	February 17	multiple-choice and two essays, 100 points
2 nd test	March 30	take-home test, 150 points*
Final exam	May 11	multiple-choice and three essays, 150 points

*The take-home test question will be handed out in hardcopy at the March 30th class and the typewritten, double-spaced response, with appropriate footnotes and bibliography, is due back on April 6th. Hardcopies only, do NOT email your take-home test to me. There is a one-grade deduction for each class the take-home test is late.

Final Grades:

400-360 A 359-340 B+ 339-320 B 319-300 C+ 299-280 C 279-240 D

Class Schedule and Reading List

Jan. 20	Topic 1: The Origin and Perpetuation of Social Inequality <i>Why are People Unequal in Society?</i> by Joel Charon <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels <i>Some Principles of Stratification</i> , by Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore <i>Inequality by Design</i> , by Claude Fischer et al.
Jan. 27	Topic 2: Comparative Inequality <i>A Compressed History of Inequality</i> , by David Grusky and Katherine Weisshaar <i>The Welfare State and Redistribution</i> , by Gosta Esping-Andersen and John Myles <i>How Rich Countries Lift Up the Poor</i> , by Lane Kenworthy
Feb. 3, 10	Topic 3: Economic Inequality <i>How Capitalism Works</i> , by Allan Johnson <i>America's 1 Percent Problem</i> , by Joseph Stiglitz <i>Rent Seeking and the Making of an Unequal Society</i> , by Joseph Stiglitz <i>Taxing the Poor</i> , by Katherine Newman and Rourke O'Brien
Feb. 17	Test on topics 1, 2, 3 the first ½ of class (multiple-choice and two essays, 100 points)
Feb. 17, 24 Mar. 2	Topic 4: Racial Inequality <i>Systemic Racism</i> by Joe R. Feagin <i>Citizenship and Inequality</i> by Evelyn Glenn <i>The Rebirth of Caste</i> by Michelle Alexander
Mar. 9	Topic 5: Residential Segregation <i>American Apartheid</i> by Richard Massey and Nancy Denton <i>The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility</i> by Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren
Mar. 23, 30	Topic 6: Educational Inequality <i>Prince Edward Joins Brown v. Board of Education</i> by Kristen Green <i>The Next Kind of Integration</i> by Emily Bazelon
Mar. 30	Take-home test question on topics 4, 5, 6 handed out tonight.
Apr. 6	Take-home test due back this class (150 points).
Apr. 6, 13	Topic 7: Inequalities in Health and Well-Being <i>A Brief History of Disease</i> by Rose Weitz <i>A Century Apart</i> , by Kristen Lewis and Sarah Burd-Sharps

Apr. 20, 27

Topic 8: Gender Inequality

Is Islam Misogynistic? by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

What You Can Do, by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

May 4

Review for final exam

May 11

6-8:40 p.m.

Final exam is comprehensive (multiple-choice and three essays, 150 points)