

Social Inequality 332

Monday 6:00 – 8:40 p.m.

Western Monmouth Branch Campus, Room 301

Instructor: J. Wilhelms

Email: jwilhelm@rci.rutgers.edu

Office hours: before or after class by appointment

Course Description:

Social Inequality 332 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. Please send me an email if you expect to be absent. Excused absences are for valid reasons and there are no point deductions for excused absences. 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 from your final grade, 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:

Ten percent of your final grade is based on class participation (50 points). Print out each of the assigned readings and be prepared for class discussions. Failure to do so will result in points being deducted from your final grade.

Classroom Conduct:

Please observe the following basic rules of courtesy and consideration during class:

1) turn off your cell phone and do not have it on your desk, in your lap, or otherwise visible to me during class; 2) 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; 3) do not have your head down on the desk or be sleeping during class; 4) no computers in class, except for special circumstances. Failure to observe these basic rules of courtesy and consideration will result in points being deducted 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.

Tests:

1 st test	October 5	3 essay questions, 50 points each
2 nd test	November 9	3 essay questions, 50 points each
Final exam	December 21	4 essay questions, 50 points each

Final Grades:

550-495 A 494-459 B+ 458-440 B 439-413 C+ 412-385 C 384-330 D

Class Schedule and Reading List (All assigned readings are posted on sakai)

Sept. 8

Topic 1: Introduction

Why Are People Unequal in Society? by Joel Charon

Some Principles of Stratification by Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore

Inequality by Design by Claude Fischer et al.

Sept. 14

Topic 2: A Comparative Perspective

A Compressed History of Inequality by David Grusky and Katherine Weisshaar

The Welfare State and Redistribution by Gosta Esping-Andersen and John Myles

How Rich Countries Lift Up the Poor by Lane Kenworthy

Sept. 21, 28

Topic 3: Economic Inequality

How Capitalism Works by Allan Johnson

America's 1 Percent Problem by Joseph Stiglitz

Rent Seeking and the Making of an Unequal Society by Joseph Stiglitz

Taxing the Poor by Katherine Newman and Rourke O'Brien

- Oct. 5** **Test on topics 1, 2 and 3 during the first ½ of class. Your choice - three of four essay questions, 50 points each.**
- Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26** **Topic 4: Racial Inequality**
Systemic Racism by Joe R. Feagin
Citizenship and Inequality by Evelyn Glenn
The Rebirth of Caste by Michelle Alexander
- Nov. 2** **Topic 5: Residential Segregation**
American Apartheid by Richard Massey and Nancy Denton
The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility
by Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren
- Nov. 9** **Test on topics 4 and 5 during the first ½ of class. Your choice - three of four essay questions, 50 points each.**
- Nov. 9, 16, 23** **Topic 6: Educational Inequality**
Prince Edward Joins Brown v. Board of Education by Kristen Green
The Next Kind of Integration by Emily Bazelon
- Nov. 30** **Topic 7: Inequalities in Health and Well-Being**
A Brief History of Disease by Rose Weitz
A Century Apart, by Kristen Lewis and Sarah Burd-Sharps
- Dec. 7** **Topic 8: Gender Inequality**
Is Islam Misogynistic? by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
What You Can Do by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- Dec. 14** **Review for final exam**
- Dec. 21** **The final exam covers the entire course and has two parts: Part 1 is on topics 6, 7 and 8. Your choice in part 1 – three of four essay questions, 50 points each. Part 2 is on topics 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Your choice in part 2 – one of two essay questions, 50 points each.**