

University of Toronto

SOC220H1
Social Stratification

Fall 2010

Friday 2-4 pm
SS2101

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1. Course Objectives

Broadly defined, social stratification is the ranking of individuals into the various social hierarchies of class, status and power. More specifically, it explores how achieved and ascribed characteristics are related to social class and related economic outcomes. In other words, the course is primarily about the causes and consequences of economic inequality. We will be concerned mostly with large scale societal patterns rather than the process by which individuals gain status in small groups. Although some of the material will be comparative and pertain to modern Democracies generally, emphasis will be on Canadian society.

2. Course Evaluation

The course will have three requirements that will contribute to your final course grade:

2.1 First in-class test (40% of course grade): October 25

This test will take place in-class on *Friday, October 25*. The test will cover all readings and lectures from September 13-October 18. You will have 110 minutes to complete the test. Please arrive at class on time.

Faculty regulations state that if you are forced to miss a test due to an acute illness or crisis, you must provide supporting official documentation within one week of the test date in order to be able to take a make-up test on a specified day. **If you miss a test and do not provide the necessary documentation, you will receive a grade of zero on the test.**

2.2 Final in-class test (30% of course grade): November 29th

This test will take place during the last class of the course on *Friday, November 29th*. The test will cover all readings and lectures from November 1-22. Please arrive at class on time. You will have 110 minutes to complete the test.

2.3 Short Essay (30% of course grade): Due IN-CLASS on Friday, November 22nd.

You are required to write a short essay on one of the weekly topics shown in the course schedule below (there will be no substitutions). You should cite at least 15 sources from academic journals and/or books *outside of the required readings for the course*. Textbook citations do not count as part of the 15 sources. At least 10 of these sources should be dated 1995 or more recent. The paper should read much like a literature review for an academic paper appearing in a top-tier sociological journal such as the *American Sociological Review*. The paper must be *at least 6 pages* but *no more than 8 pages* in length (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font)—material past page 8 will not be evaluated.

The short essay is due IN-CLASS on Friday, November 22nd. Your paper grade will be deducted **5 marks (i.e., 5/30 of the total paper grade) per week. I will not accept electronic copies** of the paper—**You must hand in a hard copy.** I will not give extensions except under very special circumstances. I suggest, therefore, that you plan to have the paper finished long before the deadline.

Some words of advice on how to write a good paper:

1. Make sure to start with a research question and set out to show the evidence both *for* and against *it*, coming to a conclusion at the end. Be sure to use published sociological research as your evidence.
2. Look at recent articles in the *American Sociological Review*, especially their literature reviews, for models on how to write a good paper. You will notice that papers with similar findings are grouped together. That is, you do not need to give a detailed summary of every paper you cite! You should also make sure to cite the most important works in the field, rather than simply the ones that you come across first. That is, a good paper will provide a description of the most important findings regarding a particular research topic. In other words, it gives an indication of how the field got to where it is.
3. The 15 **good** sources is the bare minimum. Your paper grade will be deducted 1 mark (i.e., 1/30 of the total grade) for each source less than the required 15.
4. Ensure that your writing is clear and straight to the point. If the same point can be made as clearly in 10 words as in 20 words, the 10-word version is always better.
5. Make sure to use proper grammar and spelling. I don't like wasting my time reading junk. You will receive a poor grade if the paper is not polished, so be sure to make several edits before submitting a final version.
6. Finally, **both the University of Toronto and I take plagiarism very seriously.** If I catch you doing it, you will pay the consequences. For details on the

university policy regarding plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see:
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

3. Required Readings and Course Schedule

A textbook and course pack containing all other required readings for the course can be purchased at the **University of Toronto Bookstore**:

- Grabb, Edward and Neil Guppy (eds.). 2009. *Social Inequality in Canada: Patterns, Problems, and Policies, 5th Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall. (available at U of T Bookstore)
- Articles will be posted on blackboard two weeks before class.

4. Course Schedule

I suggest doing the readings in the order in which they are listed. Readings not in the Grabb and Guppy text are posted on blackboard. All readings listed below are required.

September 13: Course Introduction

Grabb and Guppy, "General Introduction" (pp. 1-14)

September 20: Theories and Implications of the Welfare State

Esping-Andersen, Gosta and John Myles. In Press. "Economic Inequality and the Welfare State"

Korpi, Walter and Joakim Palm. 1998. "The Paradox of Redistribution: Welfare State Institutions, Inequality, and Poverty in the Western Countries," *American Sociological Review* 63(5): 661-687.

Andersen, Robert and Josh Curtis. 2013. "Public Opinion on Social Spending: 1980-2005." In Keith Banting and John Myles (eds). *The New Politics of Redistribution in Canada*. Victoria: UBC Press. Pp. 141-164.

Suggested Reading:

Myles, John and Jill Quadagno. 2002. "Political Theories of the Welfare State," *Social Service Review*, March: 34-57.

September 27: Class and Occupation in Modern Societies

Hauser, Robert M. and John Robert Warren. 1997. "Socioeconomic Indexes for Occupations: A Review, Update, and Critique." *Sociological Methodology*, 27: 177-298. **[Read only pages 177-198]**

Grusky, David B. and Kim A. Weeden. 2001. "Decomposition Without Death: A Research Agenda for the New Class Analysis." *Acta Sociologica* 44:203-18.

Grabb and Guppy, Chapter 3

October 4: Labour Markets and Social Mobility

Western, Mark and Erik Olin Wright. 1994. "The Permeability of Class Boundaries to Intergenerational Mobility Among Men in the United States, Canada, Norway and Sweden," *American Sociological Review*, 59: 606-29.

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 8 and 9

October 11: Income Inequality

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 5 and 6

Kelley, Jonathan and M. D. R. Evans. 1993. "The Legitimation of Inequality: Occupational Earnings in Nine Nations," *American Journal of Sociology*, 99: 75-125.

October 18: Education

Goldthorpe, John H. 1996. "Class Analysis and the Reorientation of Class Theory: the Case of Persisting Differentials in Educational Attainment," *British Journal of Sociology*, 47: 481-505.

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 10 and 12

October 25: MIDTERM TEST (40% of course grade)

The test covers all material from readings and lectures since start of course.

November 1: Gender

Wright, Erik O., Janeen Baxter and Gunn Elisabeth Birkelund. 1995. "The Gender Gap in Workplace Authority: A Cross-National Study," *American Sociological Review*, 60: 407-435.

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 13 and 14

November 8: Race and Ethnicity (1)

Hechter, M. 1978. "Group Formation and the Cultural Division of Labor," *American Journal of Sociology*, 84: 293-318.

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 17 and 18

November 15: Age

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 20 and 21

November 22: Some implications of Inequality

Grabb and Guppy, Chapters 23, 26 and
27

**LITERATURE REVIEW (30% of course grade) must be
submitted in-class today**

November 29: SECOND TEST (30% of course grade)

This test covers all material from readings and lectures from October 25-November
22.

Have a good holiday break!