

Social Class and Inequality
SOCIOL 224 UMass Summer 2022
Instructor: Skylar Davidson
Email: send a message using Blackboard or to sdavidson@umass.edu

Course Overview and Goals

The nature of social classes in society from the viewpoint of differences in economic power, political power, and social status. Why stratification exists, its internal dynamics, and its effects on individuals, subgroups, and the society as a whole. Problems of poverty and the uses of power. (GenEd Social and Behavioral Sciences; United States Diversity; 4 Credits)

Course Format

Our world is rapidly changing on both a social and a technological basis. As a result, this course will emphasize an “active learning” model, in which students participate in knowledge creation rather than passively absorb and regurgitate existing knowledge. Rather than focusing on memorization, assignments will lead you through using the required readings to suggest logical courses of action.

Assignments and Grading

You will be graded on two types of assignments: Individual Assignments (which you turn in to the instructor only) and Discussion Assignments (where you post your work to a forum and comment on other students' work). Each assignment prompt is different; specific details of all assignments, and their due dates, for the entire semester are in the corresponding sections on Blackboard, and information on how you'll be graded is in the Guidelines for Assignments. Each unit has one assignment, all of approximately the same length, aside from the third unit, which has two shorter assignments.

All assignments receive a grade from 0 to 100, and your final grade will be the mean of all assignments. I give feedback on all assignments that you can use to improve in the future. You are encouraged to contact me while working on assignments to ask questions and get help.

Final letter grades will be determined as follows.

Percentage Values	Corresponding Letter Grade
90.00-100.00	A
87.00-89.99	B+
84.00-86.99	B
80.00-83.99	B-
77.00-79.99	C+
74.00-76.99	C
70.00-73.99	C-
60.00-69.99	D
0.00-59.99	F

Expectations for Students

Missed Assignments

Extensions are granted only in cases of emergency (e.g., health-related or employment-related problem). Please communicate with me before completing any missed work.

Data Management

To avoid losing your work (in case of technology failure, hacking, theft, misplacing a device, or other problems), ensure to save your work to at least two different sources in two different physical locations. For example, save a copy of each assignment to both your computer and a cloud drive. Good data management also means saving your work every 10 minutes as you're working, or using a service that periodically saves your work automatically.

Turning in Assignments

Submit all work to Blackboard. Submit your work in a commonly used filetype (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, or .odt); do not submit .pages files because they are only compatible with Apple devices. Do not type in the Blackboard text box (because your work may be lost if Blackboard encounters technical problems); save your work on your own device or cloud and then upload to Blackboard once you're finished. If your work will not upload successfully, please email your assignment by the deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students must comply with the university's [academic honesty policy](#).

Resources for Students

Students with Disabilities

Students who require accommodations for this course should register with [Disability Services](#) within the first week of the course. You should also notify me as soon as possible. All documentation about your disability will remain confidential.

Writing Guidelines

See the Guidelines for Assignments document for the grading rubric, suggestions for how to get started on the assignments, and information on writing conventions we'll use in the course, including how to cite. This document applies to all assignments in the course. Please contact me with any questions or concerns about writing guidelines; in addition, the [UMass Writing Center](#) is available for free appointments.

Instructor Responsiveness

I generally respond to emails within 24 hours and grade assignments within a week from the due date. I respond to emails and grade assignments in the order I receive them. Early submissions of assignments are always welcome.

Calendar and Readings

Introductions

Assignment: Introduction Discussion Due 05/23

Unit 1: How can we understand social class and inequality?

Assignment: Individual Assignment 1 Due 05/27

Readings:

- Taylor, Graeme. 2015. "The Next 20 Years: A Time of Transformation." *Journal of Futures Studies* 19(2):113-124.
- Rushkoff, Douglas. 2011. *Life Inc.: How Corporatism Conquered the World, and How We Can Take It Back*. New York: Random House. Read chapter 1.
- Hassan, Zaid. 2014. *The Social Labs Revolution: A New Approach to Solving Our Most Complex Challenges*. San Francisco: Berrett-Kohler Publishers, Inc. Read chapter 1.
- Calnitsky, David. 2018. "Structural and Individualistic Theories of Poverty." *Sociology Compass* 12:1-14.

Unit 2: How do different demographic groups experience the economy?

Assignment: Discussion Assignment 1 Due 05/31 and 06/03

Readings:

- Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." *U. Chi. Legal F.* 139-167.
- Nance, Jason P. 2016. "Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Tools for Change." *Arizona State Law Journal* 48:313-372.
- Galupo, M. Paz, and Courtney A. Resnick. 2016. "Experiences of LGBT Microaggressions in the Workplace: Implications for Policy." Pp. 271-288 in *Sexual Orientation and Transgender Issues in Organizations*, edited by T. Köllen. Springer.
- Kraybill, Donald B., Steven M. Nolt, and Erik J. Wesner. 2011. "Sources of Enterprise Success in Amish Communities." *Journal of Enterprising Communities* 5(2):112-130.

Unit 3: How do we plan for the future?

Assignment: Individual Assignment 2 Due 06/05

Assignment: Discussion Assignment 2 Due 06/07 and 06/10

Readings:

- Inayatullah, Sohail. 2008. "Six Pillars: Futures Thinking for Transforming." *Foresight* 10(1):4-21.
- Sheehy-Skeffington, Jennifer. "Inequality From the Bottom Up: Toward a "Psychological Shift" Model of Decision-Making Under Socioeconomic Threat." Pp. 237-258 in *The Social Psychology of Inequality*, edited by J. Jetten and K. Peters. Springer.
- Marchant, Gary E., Yvonne A. Stevens, and James M. Hennessy. 2014. "Technology, Unemployment, & Policy Options: Navigating the Transition to a Better World." *Journal of Evolution and Technology* 24(1):26-44.
- Rushkoff, Douglas. 2011. *Life Inc.: How Corporatism Conquered the World, and How We Can Take It Back*. New York: Random House. Read pages 106-111.

Unit 4: How is health tied to the economy?

Assignment: Individual Assignment 3 Due 06/17

Readings:

- DeLuca, Stefanie, Emma Kalish, and Nicholas W. Papageorge. 2020. "The Unequal Cost of Social Distancing." Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/from-our-experts/the-unequal-cost-of-social-distancing>
- Chaudry, Ajay, and Christopher Wimer. 2016. "Poverty Is Not Just an Indicator: The Relationship Between Income, Poverty, and Child Well Being." *Academic Pediatrics* 16(3S):23-28.
- Dhurandar, Emily J. 2016. "The Food Insecurity Obesity Paradox: A Resource Scarcity

Hypothesis.” *Physiology and Behavior* 162:88-92.

- Frاسquilho, Diana, et al. 2015. “Mental Health Outcomes in Times of Economic Recession: a Systematic Literature Review.” *BMC Public Health* 16(1):115-145.

Unit 5: What do we need from our physical space?

Assignment: Discussion Assignment 3 Due 06/21 and 06/24

Readings:

- Rushkoff, Douglas. 2011. *Life Inc.: How Corporatism Conquered the World, and How We Can Take It Back*. New York: Random House. Read chapter 3.
- Chakrabarti, Vishaan. 2013. “Building Hyperdensity and Civic Delight.” <https://placesjournal.org/article/building-hyperdensity-and-civic-delight/>
- Al-Kodmany, Kheir. 2018. “The Vertical Farm: A Review of Developments and Implications for the Vertical City.” *Buildings* 8(2):24.
- Wagemans, Donné, Christian Scholl, and Véronique Vasseur. 2019. “Facilitating the Energy Transition—The Governance Role of Local Renewable Energy Cooperatives.” *Energies* 12(21):4171.

Unit 6: How can we meet our resource needs going forward?

Assignment: Discussion Assignment 4 Due 06/28 and 07/01

Readings:

- Schelly, Chelsea, et al. 2015. “Open-Source 3-D Printing Technologies for Education: Bringing Additive Manufacturing to the Classroom.” *Journal of Visual Languages & Computing* 28:226-237.
- Gotzsche, Peter C. 2017. “Patients Not Patents: Drug Research and Development as a Public Enterprise.” *European Journal of Clinical Investigation* 48:1-6.
- Smith, Trevor J. 2019. “Corn, Cows, and Climate Change: How Federal Agricultural Subsidies Enable Factory Farming and Exacerbate U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.” *Washington Journal of Environmental Law & Policy* 9(1):1-30.
- Kennelly, James J., and Mehmet Odekon. 2016. “Worker Cooperatives in the United States, Redux.” *The Journal of Labor and Society* 19:163-185.