



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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| Course Title | Inequality |
| Course Code | ECON 2811 |
| Semester | Summer 2025 |
| Course Length | 5 weeks, 60 Contact Hours |
| Credits | 4 |
| Instructor | TBA |
| Office | TBA |
| Email | TBA |
| Prerequisite | ECON 1111 Microeconomics |

Course Description:

This course is designed to enable a deeper understanding of the causes, dimensions, and consequences of social inequality in the United States and in the global context. The course is divided into two sections: the first section will examine various theoretical perspectives on social inequality. In the second section, we will explore multiple dimensions of social inequality, including wealth and income inequality, racial and gender inequality, educational inequality, health inequality, and the intersection of class, race/ethnicity, and gender in producing unequal outcomes.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes (aka Objectives):

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- critically analyze inequality from a sociological perspective focusing on the structural contexts that create and reproduce it;

- understand the specific dimensions of social inequality involving class, race/ethnicity, gender, and their intersections;
- evaluate everyday lived experiences through insights provided by various theories of social inequality.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:

Hurst, Charles E., Heather M. Fitz Gibbon, and Anne M. Nurse. *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences*. Routledge, 2017.

Course Requirements:

Participation

We aim to foster an atmosphere of participation given that discussion among peers is, by far, the best way to learn the contents of this course. If you participate fairly regularly in class, you will be able to obtain a perfect mark in this section.

Quizzes

Most weeks you will have a short quiz covering topics from the week's readings, lectures, and other materials. The quiz will consist of five multiple-choice questions randomly drawn from a larger pool of questions so that each student is likely to randomly draw a somewhat different set of four questions than other students.

Final Paper

The final assignment will be a final research paper on a topic discussed during the course. This paper will be between 2,000 and 2,500 words.

Book Presentation

In the last week of the semester, you and your group will deliver a 20-minute presentation summarizing your book and the important social processes going on in it that generate or maintain inequality.

Take-Home Exam

For the take-home exam, you will write 2-3 short reflective essays that synthesize and apply material and discussions covered in class along with the required readings. The take-home exam will test your comprehension and application of class material. As this is a take-home exam, you can refer to your book, lecture slides, and class notes while answering them. However, this means that the bar is set much higher, and I expect your essays to be high quality. Please proofread your exam essays before submitting them. I will consider grammatical and spelling errors while grading your exam.

| Assessments: Activity | Percent Contribution |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Participation | 10% |
| Quizzes | 15% |
| Final Paper | 30% |
| Book Presentation | 20% |

Take-Home Exam 25%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

| Percentage of available points | Grade |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 90 - 100 | A |
| 80 - 89 | B |
| 70 - 79 | C |
| 60 - 69 | D |
| <60 | F |

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.

| ECON 2811 Schedule | | |
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| Lecture | Topic | Readings |
| L1 | Introduction to class An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality | Chapter 1 |
| L2 | Class, Income, and Wealth Emerging Issues in the Shaping of the U.S. Class Structure QUIZ | Chapter 2 |
| L3 | Income and Wealth Inequality in the United States U.S. Mobility Over Time The Global Context and the Impact of Globalization | Chapter 2 |
| L4 | Poverty and Welfare Historical Roots of U.S. Perspectives on Poverty QUIZ | Chapter 3 |
| L5 | Who Are the Poor? Current Poverty Programs Perceptions of People on Welfare | Chapter 3 |
| L6 | Status Inequality The Theory of Social Status Spheres of Status in the United States QUIZ | Chapter 4 |
| L7 | Power Portraits of National Power Structure Distribution of Political Power | Chapter 5 |
| L8 | Interlinkage of Economic and Political Power Ruling-Class Unity Power Inequality in the Work Experience QUIZ | Chapter 5 |
| L9 | Classical Explanations of Inequality Karl Marx Max Weber | Chapter 6 |
| L10 | Émile Durkheim W.E.B. Du Bois QUIZ | Chapter 6 |
| L11 | Contemporary Explanations of Inequality Inequality as Individual Difference | Chapter 7 |

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| L12 | Categorical Inequalities Identities, Interactions, and Inequalities Theories of Intersectionality QUIZ | Chapter 7 |
| L13 | Sex and Gender Inequality Terms Relating to Sex and Gender U.S. Gender Relations: A Historical Sketch Gender Inequality Today Mobility and Gender Globalization and Gender QUIZ | Chapter 8 |
| L14 | Sexual Orientation and Inequality The Complexity of Sexuality LGBTQ People as Status Groups The Law and Sexual Orientation Globalization and Sexuality QUIZ | Chapter 9 |
| L15 | Racial and Ethnic Inequality Racial and Ethnic Inequality Today Mobility | Chapter 10 |
| L16 | Class, Color, and Race Theories of Racial and Ethnic Inequality QUIZ | Chapter 10 |
| L17 | Immigration, Place, and Religion Immigration and Inequality | Chapter 11 |
| L18 | Religion and Inequality Place and Inequality QUIZ | Chapter 11 |
| L19 | Consequences of Social Inequality Inequality, Health, and the Environment QUIZ | Chapter 12 |
| L20 | Inequality, Crime, and Criminal Justice Perspectives on Crime and the Law The Measurement of Crime QUIZ | Chapter 13 |
| L21 | Social Change Social Inequality and Social Movements The Labor Movement | Chapter 14 |
| L22 | The Civil Rights Movement The Women's Movement QUIZ | Chapter 14 |
| L23 | Policy Alternatives Redistributive Policies Developing the Capacity for Self-Sufficiency | Chapter 15 |
| L24 | Addressing Spatial Inequalities Expanding and Guaranteeing Political Representation Is Education an Equalizer? QUIZ | Chapter 15 |
| L25 | Book Presentation Take-Home Exam submission Final Paper submission | --- |

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:**Attendance and Expectations**

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for

requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.