South Central College

SOC 210  Social Stratification - Who Gets What and Why?

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description
This course examines the central question of “who gets what and why?” in the contemporary world. In answering this question, the course focuses on the social arrangements of social stratification and inequality and their effects on society and individual lives. It critically examines the historical, theoretical, and empirical foundations, manifestations, and maintenance of social class difference, power and conflict. The course primarily examines the United States, but, because the U.S. is not isolated from world affairs, including global economic affairs, it will necessarily also tend to more global concerns. While cultivating a critical understanding of the nature of social stratification and inequalities, the course will explore alternatives and possibilities for a more equitable and humane society with both individual and structural levels of analysis. (Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer; MNTC Goal Areas 5 and 8; History and Social Sciences, Global Perspective)

Total Credits 3
Total Hours 48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits/Hours
Lecture 3/48

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer

Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Cultural Competence - Students will be able to demonstrate an attitude of personal curiosity, a rising knowledge of cultures, and an evolving range of skills for living and working among others with other worldviews and ways of life.

Course Competencies
1. **Explain the historical context of social stratification**

   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of historical systems of social stratification in the United States
   Demonstrate understanding of historical systems of social stratification globally
   Demonstrate understanding of the role of religion in antiquity with respect to social stratification

2. **Examine and critique the Kuznet's Curve**

   Learning Objectives
   Synthesize and evaluate the evidence supporting the curve
   Explain the contours of the curve and the historical periods contained therein
   Characterize the recent geometric increase in the Kuznet's curve

3. **Analyze social stratification through conflict theory**

   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of classical conflict theory
   Demonstrate understanding of contemporary conflict theory
   Elucidate and evaluate the concept of the two-class society
   Characterize and critique the concept of alienation from work
   Compare and contrast the pros and cons of the theory as it relates to social stratification

4. **Analyze social stratification as it relates to functionalist theory**

   Learning Objectives
   Demonstrate understanding of classical functionalist theory
   Demonstrate understanding of the concepts of class, power, and prestige
   Demonstrate understanding of the metaphor of society as a human body
   Demonstrate understanding of the pros and cons of the theory as it relates to social stratification

5. **Characterize the contemporary state of social stratification**

   Learning Objectives
   Characterize and synthesize the system of stratification in the United States
   Demonstrate understanding of the system of stratification globally, with emphasis on the place that the United States fills in the system

6. **Evaluate the implications of various statuses on social stratification in the United States**

   Learning Objectives
   Quantify and qualify the effect of race
   Quantify and qualify the effect of gender
   Quantify, qualify, and critique the effect of religion

7. **Describe and evaluate the family effects of social stratification**

   Learning Objectives
   Estimate and model the effect of parental occupation on later stratification-related outcomes.
   Synthesize the effect parental education levels of later stratification-related outcomes with per pupil unit educational outcomes
   Using evidence, judge and justify the effects of the achieved and ascribed statuses of other family members on life chances and later social stratification

8. **Critically engage various theories of distribution**

   Learning Objectives
   Describe, judge, and justify class systems
   Describe, judge, and justify caste systems
   Describe, judge, and justify estate systems
   Describe, judge, and justify slavery systems
   Describe, judge, and justify power and socialist systems

9. **Summarize and critique the sociology of social mobility**

   Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of theories of social mobility
Discriminate between and evaluate various barriers to social mobility and their ethical implications for society
Quantify, judge, and justify the likelihood of social mobility across various systems of distribution

10. **Model the effects of education on social stratification**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Synthesize and evaluate the evidence of the nature of education as it relates to the reproduction of social inequality
   - Demonstrate understanding of the nature of educational topics as it relates to aspirations and "cooling-out" of students
   - Judge and justify the concept of education as the "Great Equalizer" in the United States and other nations

11. **Characterize contemporary issues surrounding social stratification**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Describe and discuss the various cultural variations and implications for social stratification
   - Quantify and qualify the advantages and disadvantages conferred by citizenship and migration status in contemporary stratification systems
   - Evaluate the global system of national stratification with respect to the core, semi-periphery, and periphery.

12. **Compare, contrast, and evaluate the effects of socialization on the lives of ordinary people**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Quantify, qualify, judge, and justify the effects of social stratification on family dynamics, family size, and child-rearing
   - Quantify, qualify, judge, and justify the effects of social stratification on educational aspirations
   - Quantify, qualify, judge, and justify the effects of social stratification on career attainment
   - Quantify, qualify, judge, and justify the effects of social stratification on lifetime earnings
   - Quantify, qualify, judge, and justify the effects of social stratification on crime and deviance
   - Quantify, qualify, judge, and justify the effects of social stratification on life chances

**SCC Accessibility Statement**

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Additional information and forms can be found at: [www.southcentral.edu/disability](http://www.southcentral.edu/disability)

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