South Central College

SOC 210  Social Stratification - Who Gets What and Why?

Common Course Outline

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 Reading 80 or 90 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in reading comprehension on the Accuplacer; MNTC Goal Areas 5 & 8; Social and Behavioral Sciences, Global Perspective)

Career Cluster
Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructional Level
Associate Degree

Total Credits 3.00
Total Hours 48.00

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits
Lecture 3

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite
Prerequisite: Completion of Reading 80 or 90 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in reading comprehension on the Accuplacer

Institutional Core Competencies

1. Civic knowledge and engagement- local and global: Students will understand the richness and challenge of local and world cultures and the effects of globalization, and will develop the skills and attitudes to function as “global citizens.”

2. Ethical reasoning and action: Students will develop ethical and social responsibility to self and others, and will collaborate with others to address ethical and social issues in a sustainable manner.
Intercultural knowledge and competence: Students will recognize and understand the rich and complex ways that group and individual inequalities and interactions impact self and society.

External Standards

Title: MN Transfer Goals

Target Standards

GOAL 5. HISTORY AND THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES To increase students' knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas.

5.a Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

5.b Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

5.c Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

5.d Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

GOAL 8. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE Goal: To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic and political experiences.

8.a Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

8.b Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.

8.c Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

8.d Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future

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
If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in the course activities, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. This information will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or cassette tape, upon request. If you wish to contact the college ADA Coordinator, call that office at 507-389-7222.

Disabilities page http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html