



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

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

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