

Prof. Regina Bures  
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Class Time: MWF 8:30-9:20  
Office Hours: MW 10-11 & by appt  
Telephone: 392-0265 x250

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Is inequality unavoidable? Is inequality increasing or decreasing? Why do people feel differently about different forms of inequality? In this course we examine the major forms of social inequality, sociological explanations of inequality, consequences of inequality, and class inequality in the United States. The objectives of this course are to:

- Demonstrate what sociologists mean by “social stratification” and the multiple dimensions in which this occurs (race, class, gender).
- Introduce the theories and concepts that sociologists use to describe and analyze social inequality.
- Increase awareness of the construction of social inequality in everyday life.
- Apply sociological theories and concepts to contemporary social issues related to inequality.

### TEXTS:

Bottero, Wendy. 2005. *Stratification: Social Division and Inequality*. NY: Routledge.

Keller, Bill. 2005. *Class Matters*. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

Newman, Katherine S. and Victor Tan Chen. 2007. *The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America*. Boston: Beacon Press.

### WEBSITE:

<http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rbures/syo4530.html>

Course announcements & resources will be posted on the e-Learning course page: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Exams (3 @ 15% each):** There will be three exams this semester. Exams will be based on course readings as well as material presented in class. Make-up exams for excused, documented absences will be offered during the final exam period. **Exam #1: 2/13; Exam #2: 3/26; Exam #3: 4/23.**
- **Group Presentation (20%):** Groups of 2-3 students will prepare presentations based on topics related to the week's readings. You and your group will research and present this topic to the class. In addition, each group member will *individually* write a short paper (2-3 pages) summarizing how the group researched this topic, your experience, how your main findings related to social inequality, and references used. **An overview of the group presentation guidelines and sign-up will be Wednesday, 1/16.**
- **Family History & Paper (5%, 20%):** You will write a 4-5 page analysis of inequality and social mobility based on your family's social status over the past 3 generations. Late papers will be penalized as follows: 1-2 days late = 10 point deduction; 3-4 days late = 20 point deduction; over 4 days late = 30 point deduction. **An overview of the paper guidelines will be Wednesday, 2/6.**
- **Attendance & Participation (10%):** Regular class participation and discussion are important parts of this class. Students are expected to come to class on time, prepared to discuss the readings, to generate questions and to share thoughts and observations. Weekly quizzes will be used to track attendance and reinforce the assigned readings. No make-up quizzes will be offered.

**SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Week 1: Dimensions of Inequality**

M, Jan 7 Introduction  
 W, Jan 9 CM, Ch 1 & 12  
 F, Jan 11

**Week 2: Social Distance & Identity**

M, Jan 14 B, Ch 1-3  
 W, Jan 16 PRESENTATION OVERVIEW  
 F, Jan 18

**Week 3: Dimensions of Inequality**

M, Jan 21 NO CLASS  
 W, Jan 23  
 F, Jan 25 NO CLASS

**Week 4: Structure or Culture?**

M, Jan 28 B, Ch 4 & 8; CM, Ch 9 & 13  
 W, Jan 30  
 F, Feb 1 Presentations A

**Week 5: Race, Gender & Inequality**

M, Feb 4 B, Ch 6 & 7; CM, Ch 3; A  
 W, Feb 6 PAPER OVERVIEW  
 F, Feb 8 Presentations B

**Week 6: Exam #1**

M, Feb 11  
 W, Feb 13 EXAM #1  
 F, Feb 15 Presentations C

**Week 7: Measuring Stratification**

M, Feb 18 B, Ch 5 & 9; A  
 W, Feb 20  
 F, Feb 22 Presentations D

**Week 8: Class & Capital**

M, Feb 25 B, Ch 10; CM, Ch 5 & 10  
 W, Feb 27  
 F, Feb 29 Presentations E

**Week 9: Mobility and Status Attainment**

M, Mar 3 B, Ch 12; CM, Ch 4, 8, 14  
 W, Mar 5  
 F, Mar 7

**Week 10: Spring Break**

**Week 11: Health, Education & Inequality**

M, Mar 17 B, Ch 11; CM, Ch 2  
 W, Mar 19 CM, Ch 6 & 7  
 F, Mar 21 FAMILY SUMMARY DUE

**Week 12: Exam #2**

M, Mar 24  
 W, Mar 26 EXAM #2  
 F, Mar 28 Presentations F

**Week 13: Persistent Inequality**

M, Mar 31 B, Ch 13 & 14; MC, Ch 1  
 W, Apr 2  
 F, Apr 4 Presentations G

**Week 14: The Missing Class**

M, Apr 7 MC, Ch 2-6  
 W, Apr 9  
 F, Apr 11 Presentations H

**Week 15: The Missing Class**

M, Apr 14 MC, Ch 7 & 8  
 W, Apr 16 FAMILY PAPER DUE  
 F, Apr 18 NO CLASS

**Week 16: Exam #3**

M, Apr 21 Wrap-up & Review  
 W, Apr 23 EXAM #3

**Readings key: (B) = Bottero text  
 (CM) = Class Matters  
 (MC)=The Missing Class  
 (A) = Ares**