Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences

Course Prefix and Number: SOCI 421

Course Title: Class, Status and Power

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course investigates societal stratification systems and societal inequalities. The course investigates in detail the arenas of inequality, primarily, class, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, as well as the role of power in constructing and maintaining such inequality; at the creation of wealth and poverty, both in the United States and globally, consequences of racial and gender inequality and the stratification system surrounding sexualities. Prerequisite: SOCI 111. Offered Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): SOCI 111.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Kerbo, Harold R. *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative, and Global Perspective.* McGraw-Hill Publishers.


Rothman, Robert A. *Inequality and Stratification: Race, Class, and Gender.* Prentice Hall.


**Supplemental Texts:**


Bullard, Robert D. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality*. Westview Press.


**Course Objectives:**

- To understand what sociologists mean by “social stratification” and the multiple arenas in which this occurs (race, class, gender, and sexuality).
- To understand the role of power in constructing and maintaining inequality, as well as the effects of systematic inequality.
- To evaluate theoretical perspectives on stratification.
- To understand the differences between wealth and income.
- To develop critical thinking skills.
- To understand the intersection of race, class, gender and sexuality.

**Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand the various theories of stratification and inequality.
- Describe the various arenas of stratification and the significant sociological perspectives on each.
- Understand intersectionality and systematic inequality.
- Differentiate between wealth and income.
- Critically analyze and interrogate the role of power in creating and maintain inequality.
- Evaluate stratification in multiple arenas: race, class, gender, and sexuality.

**Topical Outline:**

- Concepts and theories of stratification
  - Theoretical Perspectives on Inequality
    - Marx on Class
    - Weber on Status
    - Davis and Moore on the benefits of stratification
    - Lukes on power
    - Gans on the functions of poverty
- C. Wright Mills on the power elite
- Domhoff
- Intersection of race and class
- Racial inequality
- Gender inequality
- Intersection of race, class, and gender
- Sexuality

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at [http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp](http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp). You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Kathleen Fitzgerald

Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

Date: May 23, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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