

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2023

SO2600 (A3): INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION – 3 (3-0-0)

45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Holland **PHONE:** 780-539-2973
OFFICE: C-404 **E-MAIL:** mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the study of structured social inequalities and poverty, major theoretical approaches, and findings from key empirical studies, with emphasis on Canada.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: SO1000.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Raphael, D. (2020). *Poverty in Canada: Implications for health and quality of life*. Canadian Scholars.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lectures, class discussion, group work, class presentations, written tests, written projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To analyze various dimensions of inequality (micro, macro, international) from a sociological perspective, and to apply sociology's major theories to this analysis. To instill an awareness of income and wealth disparities in Canada, and why this matters in establishing inequalities of exclusion with respect to power, privilege, and property.

Various political/economic solutions aimed at achieving equity and social justice will be explored.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will gain an understanding of various class positions in Canadian society, how one's position (social status) at birth affects social standing later in life, and how social class impacts on health and well-being, family and work life, and personal values – the consequences of social stratification. Students will also learn the practical realities of implementing anti-poverty programs and policies.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
Discussion Questions *8 (5 marks each)	40 pts	8.5 %
Discussion Answers *6 (5 marks each)	30 pts	6.5 %
Midterm	60 pts	20 %
Policy Report Presentation <i>Proposal (10 pts)</i> <i>PowerPoint slides (20 pts)</i> <i>Script (20 pts)</i> <i>Presentation (50 pts)</i>	100 pts	35 %
Final Exam	100 pts	30 %
Total	330 pts	100 %

Please note: It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.

- **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

Submission & Late Policies: It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0% unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me.

Discussion Questions

Throughout the semester, there will be 8 discussion questions. Students are expected to complete all questions for full credit. These are to be electronically submitted on MyClass on a discussion forum before the start of class on the assigned dates (see below). The questions will be based on the readings for the date. They are meant to generate interesting discussion/engagement. No citations or outside resources are needed for these assignments. Rather, I'm interested in your thoughts, ideas, and critical thinking based on the readings. Further details will be given out early in the semester.

Discussion Answers

Students will answer the discussion questions that were raised by other students on the discussion forum (see above). Students are expected to answer 6 of the 8 discussion questions. However, if students answer all 8 questions, the lowest two grades will be dropped. Students will be evaluated on how well their answers engage with the class discussions and readings.

Policy Project Presentation

Throughout the semester, students will develop a policy project presentation about solutions to poverty in Canada. The project will consist of developing a proposal, creating a PowerPoint presentation, a presentation script, and then presenting their presentation during the last couple weeks of classes. Students will sign up for and commit to the presentation date selected. There will be workshops on these assignments during class time (see below). For evaluation purposes, students will provide feedback and a grade for the presenter in addition to the instructor. Note: this is the main research assignment for the course.

Midterm Test and Final Exam

The Midterm term will consist of short answer questions and a longer answer question. The final exam will consist of multiple choice and a longer answer question. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The final exam is NOT cumulative. It will be based on material after the midterm. The midterm test and final exam will be based on post-midterm course material (chapters, classroom discussions, lectures, and videos shown).

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	0-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 5	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet	Syllabus	
Jan 10	Intro to Poverty	Chapter 1 & 2	Discussion question & answers 1
Jan 12	Policy Project workshop		Discussion question & answers 2 Presentation proposal due Jan 13 at 11:59 pm
Jan 17, 19	Who are the Poor?	Chapter 3	Discussion question & answers 3
Jan 24, 26	Making Sense of Poverty	Chapter 4	Discussion question & answers 4
Jan 31, Feb 2	Pathways to Poverty	Chapter 5	Discussion question & answers 5
Feb 7, 9	Lived Experience of Poverty	Chapter 6	Discussion question & answers 6
Feb 14	Healthcare and Social Services	Chapter 7	Discussion question & answers 7
Feb 14	Policy Project workshop +midterm review		
Feb 20- Feb 24	Family Day & Winter Break – No Classes		
Feb 28	Midterm		
Mar 2	Poverty and Health Part 1	Chapter 8 & 9	Discussion question & answers 8 Powerpoint Slides due Mar 3 at 11:59 pm
Mar 7	Policy Project workshop		

Mar 9	Quality of Life	Chapter 10	
Mar 14, 16	Politics of Poverty	Chapter 11	Project script due Mar 17 at 11:59 pm
Mar 21, 23	Poverty Solutions	Chapter 12	
Mar 28, 30	Project Presentations <i>10 mins each – 5-10 mins Q/A</i> <i>Approx. 3 student presentations per class</i>		
Apr 4, 6	Project Presentations <i>10 mins each – 5-10 mins Q/A</i> <i>Approx. 3 student presentations per class</i>		
Apr 11	Final review		

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 4 – classes start

Feb 20-Feb 24 –Family Day-Reading Week, No classes

Apr 7– Good Friday, No classes

Apr 12 – Last day of classes

Apr 14 – Exam Start

Apr 24 – Last day of Final exams

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Attendance and Exam Policies:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class discussions and group discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student’s learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

PLEASE NOTE:

To be fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

D2L:

This course will make extensive use of our website on D2L to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.

Please note: If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you towards other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, “how do I get an ‘A’?” Instead, ask yourself, “how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?”
- Please only use your **NWP e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO 2600” in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!