

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2024

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:	C404	E-MAIL:	mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesdays 1-2 pm; Fridays 10-11 am, or 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:

McMullin, J. A., & Curtis, J. (2016). *Understanding social inequality: Intersections of class, age, gender, ethnicity, and race in Canada*. Oxford University Press.

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students will:

- gain an understanding of various class positions in Canadian society
- gain an understanding of how one's position (social status) at birth affects social standing later in life

- gain an understanding of how social class impacts health and well-being, family and work life, and personal values – the consequences of social stratification
- 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.transferralberta.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	Weight
Attendance	5 %
In-class Quizzes	5 %
Active viewing assignment	10 %
Midterm	20 %
<i>Policy Project</i>	30 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %
Extra Credit - up to 10 pts	5 %

Attendance

To receive full credit, students must attend class regularly unless absent for legitimate reasons (and providing documentation).

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, there will be 5 multiple-choice quizzes completed in class based on the course material (lectures, discussions, videos, and readings). Students must be in class to write the quizzes. If missed due to legitimate reasons (documentation provided), students must complete alternative assignments to earn credit. More details will be discussed.

Active Viewing Assignment

We will watch a film this semester related to the topic of inequality. Students will engage in “active viewing,” meaning they will take notes during the film. The film will be shown in class,

so students must be present during that time for credit unless you have access to the film at home (although, I highly recommend you attend for discussion purposes). Students will complete a quiz and discussion assignment due the next day.

Policy Project

Throughout the semester, students will complete a policy project. The purpose of the assignment is to research and design a policy report that addresses an aspect of inequality related to the course. The steps of this project consist of a proposal (option to present available), annotated bibliography, outline, submission, and revision. Policy workshops will be done during class time (see below). More details will be provided early in the semester.

Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm and final exam will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, matching, and short essay questions. Reviews before the exams will take place in class.

There will be a brief review in class before the tests and final exam respectively. These will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook chapters, classroom lectures, discussions, and video clips). The final exam is cumulative but with an emphasis on ‘big picture ideas’ covered throughout the semester.

Extra Credit/Participation

Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities for students to participate in class discussions as volunteers for which credit will be earned. More information will be discussed early in class.

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	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		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	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Jan 9, 11	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet	Syllabus	

Jan 16, 18	Intro to Inequality	Chapter 1	
Jan 23	Policy Project workshop		
Jan 25	Short Video and Discussion/re-cap sociological theory		Policy proposal due Jan 26 at 11:59 pm
Jan 30, Feb 1	Class and Inequality	Chapter 2	Quiz 1 (in-class)
Feb 6, 8	Gender and Inequality	Chapter 3	Quiz 2 (in-class)
Feb 13,15	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality Brief midterm review	Chapter 4	Annotated bibliography due Feb 15 at 11:59 pm
Feb 20- Feb 23	Family Day & Winter Break – No Classes		
Feb 27	Midterm		
Feb 29, Mar 5	Film (TBA)		Film Quiz and Discussion Assignment Due (Mar 6 at 11:59 pm)
Mar 7	Age and Inequality	Chapter 5	
Mar 12, 14	Families	Chapter 8	Policy Outline due Mar 12 at 11:59 pm
Mar 19, 21	Paid Work	Chapter 9	Quiz 3 (in-class)
Mar 26, 28	Education	Chapter 10	Quiz 4 (in-class) Complete Policy Paper Due Mar 28 at 11:59 pm
Apr 2, 4	Health	Chapter 11	Quiz 5 (in-class)
Apr 9,11	Short video Final exam Review/Course Wrap up		Revised paper due end of course

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 8 – First day of classes

Jan 17 – Last day to add or drop courses with a full refund

Feb 19 – Family Day

Feb 20-23 – Winter Break

March 29 – Good Friday, no classes

April 01 – Last day to withdraw from courses with a grade of “W”.

April 15 – Last day of classes

April 17-24 – Final Exam period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment. **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 tests and 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 **in advance of any due date**. Extension requests are granted only well in advanced of assignment due dates and with valid reasons.

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:

This course will make extensive use of our course website (myClass) 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.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, “How do I get an ‘A’?”, ask yourself “How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?”
- Classroom etiquette:
 - Please do not be late for class.
 - Avoid the use of cell phones except for course-related activities.
 - **Do not disrupt the class**, especially when talking about things non-sociology related

- You will be given a warning and subsequent action will be taken if disruptive behaviour continues, including being asked to leave the class.
- Please only use your NWP e-mail account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO2600” (with your section) 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 so regularly. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!