I. Course Content and Structure

Each Natural and Social Science has its own core concepts and strengths. For Sociology the core is social inequality and stratification, the topic of this course. We will begin the quarter with a discussion about whether “there has always been inequality and it’s just a part of human nature.” This discussion will look at the nature of Paleolithic and Neolithic societies. We will derive some conclusions concerning the nature of humans and human society. This may allow some discussions upon the origins of inequality.

From a discussion of origins of inequality, we will move to the concept of Race. We will discuss its biological validity and its historic origins and purposes. Following this we will look at the meaning and validity of class stratification in U.S. society. We will consider gender stratification next. This central five weeks of the course will lay the foundation for an understanding of the consequences of these three types of stratification in U.S. society. In the eighth week of the class we will look beyond the U.S. to see how stratification appears on a global scale and, finally, we will look to the future, both within the U.S. and globally, in order to understand where we are likely to be headed with stratification in your lifetime.

These sections will be accompanied by readings, lectures in the large classroom, films for the class, and special assignments and tasks in the discussion sections.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodation in order to meet the requirements of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

II. Required Texts

2. Various assignments to be announced.

III. Course Evaluation

1. Students are expected to attend lectures acquainted with the materials assigned for the week.
2. First Midterm (Wednesday, October 14, 2009) The first midterm will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions. Students should bring a suitable pencil
and a scantron. The exam will include all discussion sections, materials, readings, and lectures up to and including material from October 2. THERE WILL BE NO ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR, OR PRESENTATION OF, THIS EXAMINATION.

3. Second Midterm (Wednesday, November 4, 2009) The second mid term will consist of 50 multiple choice questions similar in structure and question style to the first exam. The exam will include material, readings, lectures, films, and discussion sections until and including November 2. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATION PROVIDED FOR THIS EXAM.

4. Third midterm examination (Wednesday, November 25, 2009). The mid midterm will consist of 50 multiple choice questions similar in structure and question style to the first two exams. This exam will include material, readings, films, lectures, and discussion sections until and including February 9. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATION PROVIDED FOR THIS EXAM.

5. Students may miss one of the above exams and the final grade will be calculated from the other two examinations taken. As an alternative, the instructor will drop the lowest grade of the three above examinations if the student has taken all three. The total weight for the two midterms for the final grade will be 60%.

6. Final Examination: (Thusday, December 10, 2009, 3:15 p.m.) The final examination will consist of an exam similar in structure and question style to the first, second and third midterms. It will consist of 100 questions and will require two hours. This examination will be comprehensive and cover all the material presented in the class. The final examination will make up 40% of the final grade. THERE WILL BE NO ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR, OR PRESENTATION OF, THIS EXAMINATION.

7. Students are encouraged to attend their discussion sections. Students who attend at least 7 of the 10 discussion sections and meet the requirements of their discussion section GTF will receive an extra 5 points on their final grade average.

IV. Course Readings and Schedule

Week 1: September 28-30: Introduction and Basic Concepts: Course structure, content and requirements; Paleolithic and Neolithic human society and the origins of inequality; differentiation and stratification.
   Readings: Beeghley, 1-35.

Week 2: October 5-7: Race and Racial Concepts: Biology and race; race as ideology.
   Readings: Beeghley, 36-69.
   Movie: Race: The Power of an Illusion

   Reading: Review weeks one and two readings for examination.
FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Week 4: October 19-21: Class: definitions of class and its meaning. Class in the U.S.
   Film: Born Rich

Week 5: October 26-28: Class: How class reproduces itself.
   Readings: Beeghley, 113-144, 199-225.
   Film: “On The Edge”

Week 6: November 2-4: Social Class.
   Readings: Beeghley, 226-286.

SECOND MIDTERM EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4.

Week 7: November 9-11: Gender: Social Creation and gender structures.
   Readings: Beeghley, 70-100.
   Film: Tough Guise

Week 8: November 16-18: Comparative and International Stratification and Inequality
   Readings: Beeghley, 287-297.
   Film: The Hidden Face of Globalization, The Corporation

   Readings: Beeghley, 298-303.

THIRD MIDTERM EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25.

Week 10: November 30- December 2: Course Wrap-up and Conclusions.

FINAL EXAMINATION: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009 AT 3:15 P.M. IN 180 PLC.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Recently, it has come to my attention that academic dishonesty has become quite widespread and commonly practiced on U.S. and Canadian University campuses. Please be aware that academic dishonesty is not acceptable in this class. If you have any doubt about what constitutes academic honesty and academic dishonesty, please discuss these issues with your instructor or GTF. It will be assumed, in this classroom, that you are aware of the fundamental requirements of academic honesty and deviation from the
requirements of academic honesty and the practice of academic dishonesty will result in failure in this class and dismissal from the classroom.

STATEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

Computers are not to be open during lecture in the classroom. Those who have them open will be asked to close them or to leave the classroom. This includes during films in the class. If you take notes on a computer, you will be asked to sit in the very last row of the classroom to keep your notes. This is to avoid disruption of the lecture and in the interests of your fellow students.

All cellphones should be turned off. All electronic devices must be turned off and not visible during examinations. No listening mechanisms (such as ear buds) will be allowed either during lecture, films or examinations.