SOC 207: Social Inequalities  
Fall 2006  
CRN: 16623  
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:20  
180 PLC  

Professor Richard York  
E-mail: rfyork@uoregon.edu  
Office: 719 PLC  
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-1:50  

Course Description:  

In this course you will learn about inequalities of class, race, and gender that exist within the United States and cross-culturally. The course will provide both a description of existing inequalities and a review of theories that attempt to explain the origin and perpetuation of inequalities.  

Course Texts:  

Kerbo, Harold R. *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative, and Global Perspective* (Sixth Edition).  

Tea, Michelle (ed.). *Without a Net: The Female Experience of Growing Up Working Class*.  

Discussion Sections  

Each discussion section will be led by a Graduate Teaching Fellow (GTF) who will provide you with information about how the discussion sections will be run during the first section meeting. NOTE: Discussion sections do NOT meet the first week of class or the last two weeks of classes, nor during finals week.  

Blackboard  

In addition to this syllabus, I will make some of the overheads I use in class available on Blackboard ([https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/](https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/)). I may also post announcements and other information on Blackboard, so you should check the site at least once a week.
**Grading Criteria:**

There are a total of 200 points possible in this course. No extra credit is available.

There will be four (4) quizzes, which will be over the readings, films, and lectures. **YOU MUST BRING A GREEN SCANTRON SHEET (FORM 882-E) AND A #2 PENCIL FOR EACH QUIZ.** Each is worth 30 points, which means that quizzes make up a total of 120 points (60% of your grade). If you miss a quiz you will NOT be allowed to make it up unless you have informed me BEFORE the quiz and have a legitimate excuse.

There will be one written assignment based on the Michelle Tea book worth 40 points (20% of your grade) due in class Thursday, November 30th. You should type (double-spaced, 12-point font) 3-4 pages in which you analyze the book in the context of what you have learned in this class. In particular, you should focus on a few of the stories that you find most interesting and discuss how the experiences of the writers can be interpreted in terms of the theories of social inequality covered in this course. You will be graded based on clarity, thoroughness, thoughtfulness, insightfulness, and how well you demonstrate your understanding of the material covered in class. This is not meant to be simply a “book review” but a critical analysis of the book using sociological concepts. Note that you are encouraged to print double-sided or on the clean side of used paper, so as to conserve paper.

The remaining 40 points of your grade will come from participation in your discussion section. The GTF who leads your discussion section will give you the details on how these points will be assigned.

There is no final exam in this course.

I do not grade on a curve. Final grades are based on the following point system:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>195-200</td>
<td>97.5 – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>186-194</td>
<td>93 – 97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>180-185</td>
<td>90 – 92.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>175-179</td>
<td>87.5 – 89.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>166-174</td>
<td>83 – 87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>160-165</td>
<td>80 – 82.5%</td>
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<td>146-154</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>140-145</td>
<td>70 – 72.5%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>130-139</td>
<td>65 – 69.5%</td>
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<td>120-129</td>
<td>60 – 64.5%</td>
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**Late Work**

Late work generally will not be accepted. Any exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the instructor, who may impose any penalty he deems appropriate on late assignments.
Classroom Policies

**Academic Etiquette:** Please arrive in class on time and do not leave early (or pack up to leave early). Both arriving late and leaving early can be very disruptive. Although you should feel free to ask questions of the instructor during lectures, please remain quiet in class otherwise so as not to distract other students. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off during class. Most importantly, you are expected to be respectful to all members of this class.

**Academic Integrity:** All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor before you complete any requirement of the course. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Note that if you commit an act of academic dishonesty, you may receive an F in the course.

**Attendance:** I expect you to be in class, although I will not take attendance. Each of you will be responsible for any material, announcements, assignments, and/or schedule changes presented in class. If you miss a lecture you will need to ask another student for details of what was covered in class; I will not repeat information in class for those who have missed classes.

**Disability Accommodations:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. *Please notify me during the first week of class* of any accommodations needed for this course.

**Class Schedule** – note that I reserve the right to change this schedule as necessary. Any changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for being aware of any changes whether or not you attend class. You should have completed the assigned reading before Thursday’s class meeting each week.

**Week 1 (9/25-9/29) Introduction to social inequality**
- NO DISCUSSION SECTION MEETING THIS WEEK
- Read: Kerbo, Ch. 1-2; Tea, Introduction

**Week 2 (10/2-10/6) History of inequality**
- Read: Kerbo, Ch. 3-4; Tea, pages 1-20

**Week 3 (10/9-10/13) Foundational theories of social stratification**
- Read Kerbo, Ch. 5; Tea, pages 21-48
Week 4 (10/16-10/20) American class structure I
• Professor York will not hold office hours this week due to travel
• Read: Kerbo, Ch. 6; Tea, pages 49-78
• Tuesday: Quiz #1 (Chapters 1-5 in Kerbo and the syllabus)
• Thursday: Video, “Taken for a Ride” (04097)

Week 5 (10/23-10/27) American class structure II
• Read: Kerbo, Ch. 7-8; Tea, pages 79-90

Week 6 (10/30-11/3) Poverty and gender inequalities I
• Read: Kerbo, Ch. 9-10; Tea, pages 91-102
• Tuesday: Quiz #2 (Chapters 6-8 in Kerbo)
• Thursday: Video, “Killing Us Softly 3” (05115)

Week 7 (11/6-11/10) Gender inequalities II and inequalities of race and ethnicity
• Read: Kerbo, Ch. 11; Tea, pages 103-140
• Thursday: Video, “Mississippi: Is this America?” (00429, tape 5)

Week 8 (11/13-11/17) Economics and value
• Professor York will not hold his Tuesday office hour due to travel
• Read: Tea, pages 141-213
• Tuesday: Quiz #3 (Chapters 9-11 in Kerbo)
• Thursday: Video, “Who’s Counting?” (03703)

Week 9 (11/20-11/24) Environmental injustice and global inequalities I
• NO DISCUSSION SECTION MEETING THIS WEEK
• Read: Kerbo, Ch. 14
• Thursday: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

Week 10 (11/27-12/1) Global inequalities II
• NO DISCUSSION SECTION MEETING THIS WEEK
• Read: Kerbo, Ch. 17
• Thursday: Quiz #4 (Chapters 14, and 17 in Kerbo and the entire Tea book);
  ASSIGNMENT ON THE TEA BOOK IS DUE IN CLASS

Finals Week (12/4-12/8)
• THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS COURSE