Soc 420
Social Inequalities: Race, Class, and Gender

Spring 2016

Dr. Rick Baldoz
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-12:00 or by appt.
King Hall 324
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This course will explore contemporary sociological approaches in the study of social inequality. The enduring structure and reproduction of inequalities along axes of class, race and gender are core problems of sociology. This seminar will examine these issues by first considering various theoretical and methodological issues in the field. We will then examine how different thinkers have implemented of these theories and concepts through a variety of innovative case studies.

Required Readings:

Rivera, Lauren: Pedigree: How Elite Students Get Elite Jobs
Silva, Jennifer: Coming Up Short: Working Class Adulthood in the Age of Uncertainty
Skrentny, John: After Civil Rights: Racial Realism in the New American Workplace
Ribas, Vanesa: On the Line: Slaughterhouse Lives and the Making of the New South
Dean, James: Straights: Heterosexuality in a Post-Closeted Culture
Schilt, Kristen: Just One of the Guys: Transgender Men and the Persistence of Inequality

Course Requirements:

1. Come prepared to discuss the assigned readings and offer constructive/critical comments on the course materials. Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will count against your final grade.
2. There will be one long research paper (20-25 pages). The instructor must approve the topic. The paper will make up 75 percent of your final grade.
3. You are required to bring a one-page response essay to the readings to class each week. You will be graded on your in-class participation and your comprehension of the course materials. Your in-class participation will make up 25 percent of your final grade.

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Week 1) Introduction
Feb 1: The Inequality Conundrum

Week 2) Understanding Social Class
Feb 8: H. Kimeldorf, “Class Not Strata: It’s Not Where You Stand but What You Stand for” in P. McGuire, From the Left Bank to the Mainstream. ps. 13-29
J. Johnston and D. Dolowitz, “Marxism and Social Class” in A. Gamble (ed.), Marxism and Social Science ps. 129-151

Week 3) Stratification and the Social Order
Feb 15: B. Western & B. Pettit, “Incarceration and Social Inequality,” in Daedalus, pp. 8-19

Week 4) How the Ruling Class Rules
Feb 22: L. Rivera, Pedigree, whole book

Week 5) Class, Status, and Culture
Feb 29: J. Silva, Coming Up Short, whole book

Week 6) Racial Formations
R. Baldoz, “Get Rid of All Filipinos or We’ll Burn this Town Down: Racial Revanchism and the Contested Color Line in the Interwar West” in R. Baldoz, The Third Asiatic Invasion: Empire and Migration in Filipino America, ps. 113-155

Week 7) Redrawing the Color Line

March 21: Spring Break

Week 8) Managing Racial Boundaries

Week 9) Post-Racialism?
April 4: J. Skrentny, After Civil Rights, whole book

Week 10) Gendered Scripts
T. Meadow, “A Rose is a Rose: On Producing Legal Gender Classification” Gender and Society (2010) ps. 814-837
Week 11) The Matrix of Gender and Sexuality

Week 12) Making and Remaking Gendered Inequalities

Week 13) The New Gender Order
May 2: J Dean, *Straights*, whole book

Final Paper: Due Date TBA

**Honor Code:** This course will follow the policies described in the Oberlin College Honor Code and Honor System. Please contact me if you have any questions about citation, or the relationship of the Honor Code to your work in this course. For more information on the Honor Code, see [http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html](http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html).