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 issues utilized by scholars in the field. We will then examine how different thinkers have implemented these theories and concepts in a variety of innovative case studies.

**Required Readings:**

- Kimeldorf, Howard *Reds or Rackets?: The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront*
- Sherman, Rachel, *Class Acts: Service and Inequality in Luxury Hotels*
- Kimmel, M. and Aronson, Amy *The Gendered Society: Reader*
- Katznelson, Ira, *When Affirmative Action Was White: The Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America*
- Kimmel, Michael, *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*

**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 (18-20 pages). The instructor must approve the topic. The paper will make up 60 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 30 percent of your final grade.
Week 3) Durable Inequalities
C. Tilly, “The Roots of Durable Inequality”
D. Peck, “How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America”

Week 4) Class Formation
March 1: H. Kimeldorf, Reds or Rackets, whole book

Week 5) Intersecting Boundaries
March 8: R. Sherman, Class Acts: Service and Inequality in Luxury Hotels, whole book

Week 6) What is Race?
March 15: M. Omi and H. Winant “Racial Formation in the United States” excerpt
H. Blumer, “Race Prejudice as Sense of Group Position”
H. Gans “Race as Class”

Week 7) The Origins of Racial Inequality

Week 8) Spring Break
March 29

Week 9) The Institutional Reproduction of Racial Hierarchies
April 5: I. Katznelson, When Affirmative Action Was White: The Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America, whole book

Week 10) Post-Racial America?
April 12: J. Lee and F. Bean “Beyond Black and White”
R. Smith and D. King “Barack Obama and the Future of American Racial Politics”

Week 11) The Social Construction of Gender
April 19: M. Kimmel and A. Aronson, The Gendered Society, chapters 4 & 9

Week 12) Gendered Institutions
April 26: M. Kimmel and A. Aronson, The Gendered Society, chapters 5,6,7

Week 13) Making Masculinity
May 3: M. Kimmel, Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men, whole book

Week 14) Intersection of Race, Class, Gender
May 10: Reading TBA

Finals Week) Paper Due
May 17:

**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.