

SOC 370 – POVERTY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

SYLLABUS

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COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

SOC 201 with a minimum grade of C; and, SOC 251 with a minimum grade of C; or, with permission of the instructor

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1024** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Textbook:

Eitzen, D. Stanley and Kelly Eitzen Smith. *Experiencing Poverty: Voices From the Bottom*. Belmont, CA:Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. ISBN: 0-534-52958-5

Marger, Martin. *Social Inequality: Patterns and Processes*. 4th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0-07-352815-3

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the historical and socio-cultural factors which influence the creation and maintenance of poverty and social inequality. Emphasis will be on structural influences on, and theoretical explanations of, poverty and social inequality. This course will also focus on the implications for policy and social programs aimed at

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poverty and other social class issues. In addition, there will be exploration of systems of power, privilege, and domination that are central to the American social structure. Finally, the issues of empowerment, resistance, and solutions to poverty and social inequality will be assessed.

Our concerns are the following:

- a. to examine poverty and inequality as they exist, which means moving beyond our own values, beliefs, and experiences and seeing the social forces that impact on these issues
- b. to critically think about and analyze poverty and inequality as well as U.S. culture and society as a whole

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Examine major areas of theory, research, social policy, and practice which impact on social class issues (and issues related to gender, race, and ethnicity)
- Analyze how poverty, inequality, and social class are defined
- Assess the extent, and types, of poverty and inequality
- Describe the effects of race, ethnicity, gender, and social class on inequality and poverty
- Examine the structural influences on poverty, inequality, and social class compared to the traditional person-blame (individualistic) explanations
- Analyze the systems of domination, hierarchy, power, and privilege embedded in fundamental American institutions
- Develop the ability to write sociologically about poverty and inequality issues

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are three (3) exams graded on a 100 point scale. The format for the exams is multiple choice and short answer questions. Material on the exams is from the texts and is presented in detail in the Study Guide section of this booklet.

In addition, you will be required to write a research paper appropriate to the course. Details of the research paper are in the Course Instructions section below.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Exam #1 (Chapters 1-6 in Marger)	100 points
Exam #2 (Chapters 7-12 in Marger)	100 points
Exam #3 (Chapters 1-9 in Eitzen & Eitzen Smith)	100 points

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Research Paper

100 points

Total Points for the Course

400 points

Scale:

360 - 400	A
320 - 359	B
280 - 319	C
240 - 279	D
0 - 239	F

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.