

SOC 364 (3 credit hours)

Social Inequality

Fall 2007

- What are the origins of social stratification?
- What practices and institutions shape these divisions?
- How is the experience of social class modified through its intersections with race and gender?
- How much inequality is there and how much do (can) we need (tolerate)?
- Is inequality increasing or decreasing in our society?

This survey course studies the distribution of three primary resources: class, status and power. Special attention is given to the way birth-ascribed statuses such as age, sex and race interact with class, status and power stratification systems. Special attention is also given to the popular and scientific explanations of inequality, especially with respect to the high and low ends of the distribution of income and wealth. Prerequisite: SOC 261 or consent of instructor. Credit 3.

Time & Place

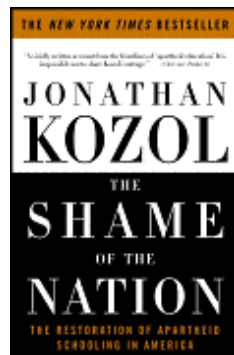
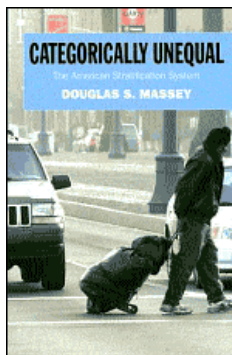
Number & Title	Sociology 364 Social Inequality
Time	10-11:20 PM
Place	ABI 307

Instructor/TA

Karen Manges Douglas, Ph.D.
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TA: Yolanda Lopez
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Required Books



- (1) Massey, Douglas S. (2006) Categorically Unequal:
- (2) Kozol, Jonathan. (2005) The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America

Course Format & Requirements

The course will follow a lecture-discussion format. Further, there will be occasions when you will be responsible for presenting a portion of a class lecture (e.g., group presentations). Please note that the lectures will not strictly follow the book. Lectures may include new material, often topical material of events that make the news. You are responsible for all the material covered be it from the lectures, the textbooks, as well as other readings.

The requirements for this course include completing the assigned readings, taking the required exams, participating in regular class meetings; and preparing a portion of a class lecture.

1. Reading assignments/summaries: Regular class meetings will be structured around a combined lecture and discussion format. Hence, completing assigned readings prior to coming class will be essential for informed discussion and debate.

You will be required to prepare at least two short summaries of the course readings and/or film analysis. Additionally, you will be required to prepare a slightly longer summary (4-6 pages) of *Shame of the Nation*. You will be assigned the chapters to summarize from the required texts during the first two weeks of the semester.

2. Examinations: There will be two exams which will be primarily essay in format. Each exam will cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and supplemental materials that we have discussed up to the time of each exam. Specific date for each exam will be announced in the class as the course progresses. Makeup exams will be administered under compelling circumstances which must be documented. Makeup exams must be completed within one week of the original exam date.

3. Topic presentation: You will be assigned a topic for which you will prepare a presentation. You are to explore this topic in-depth over the course of the semester which includes periodically sending a progress report to me.

GRADING:

- (1) Exams. 2 exams both essay/short answer in format. Midterm and Final.
- (2) Writing Assignments
- (3) Class Presentation

Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Writing Assignments (Chapter Summaries)	100 points
In-depth class presentation	100 points

Final Grades will be awarded according to the following point distribution:

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

Rules of Conduct

Class starts promptly at 12 o'clock which assumes that you are already in your seat at that time. Class ends either (1) when the instructor dismisses class; and/or (2) at 12:50 pm -- whichever comes first. You are expected to attend the class for the entire 50 minute period.



Cell phones, beepers and other electronic devices should either be shut-off or put in a non-disruptive mode. If you bring a laptop to class with you, surfing the internet or checking email during class is NOT acceptable. Failure to respect this simple rule will result in disciplinary action that may include banning the use of laptops during class and/or a disciplinary report filed to the appropriate university personnel.

MP3 players and earbuds should be shut off and put away during class. If you are wearing your player on exam day, the instructor will temporarily confiscate your MP3 player while you complete the exam. The player will be returned when the exam is submitted.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:
<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.
Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. You are responsible for signing the course attendance book. If you fail to sign the attendance roster on a given day, **you will not get credit for attendance on that particular day**. In the event you are unable to attend class, you are still responsible for the material covered.

If you add the class late and missed assignments/readings/quizzes as a result, your grade will reflect this late addition. You cannot get credit for days in which you are not in attendance. You are still required for all the material covered from the first day of class until the last day of class even if you are not physically present in class. It is your responsibility to obtain the missed material.

Chronic absenteeism (more than one week) will be reported to the Sam Center First Alert program for follow-up.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Plagiarism is also not acceptable and will not be tolerated. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

All student papers will submit their paper to the Turnitin database to check originality. This system compares the document with online sources and the Turnitin database. Turnitin then scores the paper for originality.

Plagiarized papers will be returned to the student to be rewritten and will docked a full letter grade. Additional incidents will result in an F for the class and your conduct will be reported to the appropriate university personnel.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must be initiated by the student. If you are seeking such accommodations you should go to the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the

student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays

Absences for the observance of religious holidays will be respected and excused provided that I am notified of the absence at the beginning of the semester.

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations

Towards the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. These are very important to me and provide me with invaluable information for improving the course.

Study Tips

I will devote one lecture during the first week of class on active reading which will be helpful in helping you prepare your chapter summaries. I also encourage study groups. Study groups help check your understanding of the reading material as well as provide an opportunity to take advantage of the results that emerge as a result of group synergy. Further, you can use members of your group as editors of your writing and you can also edit the writing of your classmates as well. If you have difficulties with writing for the social sciences or exam anxiety, the SAM Center offers excellent tutoring along with help with writing. These services are available without charge to all Sam Houston students and you should take advantage of these wonderful services.

Course Schedule and Weekly Assignments

(Subject to modification over the course of the semester)

eWeek	Week ending	📖 Assignments	📄 Assignments	💡 Lecture
1	8/24	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 summary	Introduction/Syllabus
2	8/31	Chapter 2	Chapt 1 summary due Aug. 29	Chapter 1
3	9/7	Chapter 3	Chpt 2 summary due Sep. 5	Chapter 2
4	9/14	Chapter 4	Chpt 3 summary due Sep. 12	Chapter 3
5	9/21	Chapter 5	Chpt 4 summary due Sep 19	Chapter 4
6	9/28	Chapter 6	Chpt 5 summary due Sep 26	Chapter 5
7	10/5	Chapter 7	Chpt 6 summary due Oct 3	Chapter 6
8	10/12	Kozol 1-4	Midterm exam Oct. 8 Chpt. 7 summary due Oct. 10	
9	10/19	Kozol 5-8	Kozol 1-4 summaries due Oct. 17	Kozol
10	10/26	Kozol 9-12	Kozol 5-8 summaries due Oct. 24	Kozol
11	11/2		Kozol 9-12 summaries due Oct. 31	Kozol
12	11/9	Presentations	Draft of Kozol summary due Nov. 7	
13	11/16	Presentations	Class	
14	11/23	Presentations	Age	Nov.22 Thanksgiving Holiday
15	11/30	Presentations	Gender/Race	
16	12/7	Presentations	Structure	Dec. 5 Last class meeting
17		FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM	

Significant University Calendar Dates

- September 3** MONDAY. Labor Day Holiday for students and faculty.
- September 5** WEDNESDAY. Twelfth Class Day. Last day to drop without a “Q” and receive 100% refund.
- October 10** WEDNESDAY. Half-semester courses end. Last day to drop Fall Semester courses without grade of F. Last day to resign without receiving a mark of W. Degree applications to be filed in Registrar’s Office by students graduating in May 2008.
- November 20** TUESDAY. Thanksgiving holidays for students and faculty begin at 9:00 p.m. Residence halls close at 10:00 p.m.
- November 21, 22, 23** WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY. Thanksgiving holidays for students and faculty.
- December 6** THURSDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign.
- December 7** FRIDAY. Study Day.
- December 15** SATURDAY. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.
- December 17** MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar’s Office. Fall Semester ends.

References