San José State University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 165  Wealth, Poverty, and Privilege  Spring ‘15

Instructor:           Chris J. Cox
Office Location:     DMH 210
Telephone:          408 – 924 - 5326
Email:               Christopher.Cox@sjsu.edu
                       Cj373@hotmail.com
Office Hours:        MW 11:00 am – 12:00 pm; 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Class Days/Time:     MW 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm
Classroom:           DMH 231
Prerequisites:       Introductory Social Science;
                       Social theory recommended

Course Description
In this course, you will be introduced to sociological perspectives of stratification. Stratification exists in some form or another in all societies and sociologists study stratification in society by examining class differences (poverty and wealth), power differences (privileges or lack thereof), and status differences (including race, gender, sexuality, religion, etc). This course examines the causes and consequences of inequality along the aforementioned dimensions. It includes local, national and global levels of analysis.

Required Texts/Readings
Textbooks


Other Readings
Additional readings will be made available in electronic format through instructor web page.
Classroom Protocol

1. Late Assignments: Assignments such as term papers will lose credit for every class meeting that they are late. These assignments must be turned in by hand during class (not by email). They must also be stapled! Papers over one week late will not be accepted unless a prior arrangement has been made with me. If you foresee a problem with meeting a deadline, you need to speak with me about it as soon as possible. Waiting until the last minute is not a good idea. Late exams need to be taken as soon as possible, and I need to be informed of your absence should it occur on an exam date.

2. Academic Honesty: Cheating on exams or written assignments is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Most importantly, this includes plagiarism on the formal written assignments. Basically, plagiarism includes using the words and ideas of others without giving proper credit, as well as the outright copying of others’ work. In cases of substantiated violations of the academic integrity policy (i.e., there is sufficient evidence that you have cheated on any assignment), you will automatically fail the course.

3. General conduct: Cell phones should not be used during class, and your phone’s ringer should be turned off. Text messaging is also not permitted during class. Please show courtesy to your fellow students and your professor by refraining from cell phone use during class. If you are having an emergency for which you need your phone on, come and talk to me before class begins.

*D Also, there are times when we may discuss sensitive topics during class, or topics of controversy for which people may have extremely divergent views. Open discussion and debate is encouraged, but maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect towards all that are in the class is of the utmost importance.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

The grades in this class consist of two exams (a midterm and a final), a term paper (including a rough draft and peer editing), and class essays. The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. The term paper will be a ten-page paper on a topic of your choice relating to the overall subject matter of the course (macro and micro level phenomena relating to sexual/romantic interaction, expression, regulation, etc.). A submission of your proposed topic is required, as is a rough draft and participation in a peer editing session in
class before the final drafts are due (see schedule). A separate handout will be given regarding the term paper. The in-class assignments will consist of a variety of exercises and activities given at random during the course, so class attendance is a must.

### Grading Scale:

- Tests: 50%
- Term Paper: 30%
- Rough Draft, Peer Edit: 5%
- Class essays: 15%

### University Policies

**Academic integrity**

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at [http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at [http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

**Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors, and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the six SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.
### Sociology 165 Wealth, Poverty, and Privilege Spring ‘15

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Spring Semester officially begins on Wednesday, Jan 21; classes officially begin on Thursday, Jan 22. Our first meeting is on Monday, January 26.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Introduction, Theories of Stratification Read “Sociology and Stratification” chapter (webpage); bell hooks’ “Confronting Class in the Classroom” (webpage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Understanding the Economy Read Wright/Rogers ch’s 1 through 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Poverty and Inequality; Class Read Wright/Rogers ch’s 10, 11; Zweig ch 1; Tumin article (webpage) Analysis of Economic and Political power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Poverty and Inequality cont’d Read Zweig ch. 3; Wright/Rogers ch. 7; “...Concentrated Poverty” article (webpage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Race and Class Read Wright/Rogers ch. 14; W.E.B. Du Bois, O. Cox, W.J. Wilson articles (webpage) <strong>Essay #1 due Feb 25th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Gender and Class Read Wright/Rogers ch. 15; H. Hartman, P. H. Collins articles (webpage) <strong>Term Paper Topics form due Mar 4th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>Gender and Class cont’d Read “Lesbian and Gay Occupational Strategies” article <strong>Midterm March 11th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>Dynamics of classes: the rich, the middle class, the poor; Immigration. Read Zweig ch’s 4, 5; Domhoff article; Portes et al article (webpage) <strong>Spring Break is from March 23rd – March 27th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>Analysis of Economic and Political Power Read Wright/Rogers ch’s 16, 17 <strong>Essay #2 due April 1st</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11   | Apr 6, Apr 8 | Health care; Transportation  
Read Wright/Rogers ch’s 6, 8  
**Term Paper rough drafts due; Peer editing in class (Wednesday, April 8th)** |
| 12   | Apr 13, Apr 15 | Media; Taxation  
Read Wright/Olin ch’s 18, 19; Gilens article (webpage)  
**Term paper final drafts due (Wednesday, April 15th)** |
| 13   | Apr 20, Apr 22 | Organized Labor  
Read Zweig ch. 6; Wright/Rogers ch. 21 |
| 14   | Apr 27, Apr 29 | Global Perspectives; Militarism, Conflict  
Read Wright/Rogers ch. 20  
**Essay # 3 due (tentative)** |
| 15   | May 4, May 6 | Looking to the Future  
Read Wright/Rogers ch. 22 |
| 16   | May 11, May 13 | Wrap up topics. The last day of instruction for the Spring 2012 semester is **Wednesday, May 13th** |
| Final Exam | May 21 | Thursday, May 21st, 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm in our regular classroom |