

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM:	SPRING 2016	COURSE NO: SOC 301	
INSTRUCTOR:	TBA	COURSE NAME: Social Inequality	
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S): 01	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:	@capilanou.ca		
OFFICE HOURS: TBA			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100 level or higher coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Canadian society faces numerous social divisions, such as those between rich and poor, women and men, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. These differences lead to important social outcomes, as in access to health care, seniors' pensions, or the wages we earn in our jobs. The student will use theories and research to understand social inequality in Canada today.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between various definitions of "inequality"
- Evaluate competing methods of measuring inequality
- Compare the distinct approaches of political economy, feminist theory, and the sociology of race, ethnicity, and racialization
- Critically read, analyze, and understand research on inequality
- Describe some of the historical trends in inequality
- Summarize some of the main elements of inequality in Canada today
- Write critically and analytically on the subject of inequality

COURSE WEBSITE:

moodle.capilanou.ca

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Grabb, Edward, and Neil Guppy. Social Inequality in Canada: Patterns, Problems, and Policies. 5th edition. Pearson: Toronto, 2009.
(Chapters listed as "GG" below)

Wilkinson, Richard and Kate Pickett. The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone. (revised paperback edition). Penguin: London, 2010.

SOC 301 online readings. Available on Moodle.

COURSE CONTENT:

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction: What is social inequality?	GG Introduction (pp.1-16)
2	Political economy: corporate Canada, globalization, and neoliberalism	GG chs. 1 and 2 (pp. 17-43)
3	Classes, the labour movement, and strikes	GG chs. 3 and 4 (pp. 44-76)
4	Wealth and Poverty: what is poverty? Who is poor? And who are the "1%"?	GG chs. 5, 6, and 7 (pp. 77-105)
5	Wealth and Poverty 2: Economic Inequality over time	Osberg, "A Quarter Century of Economic Inequality" (Moodle)
6	Labour Markets, Work, and Inequality	GG ch. 9 (pp.133-149)
7	Gender and Inequality: the economics of gender	GG chs. 13, 14 and 15 (pp. 191-236)
8	Gender and Inequality: violence against women and reducing gender inequality	McInturff, "The Gap in the Gender Gap"; McInturff, "Closing Canada's Gender Gap" (Moodle)
9	Race, Ethnicity, Inequality	GG chs. 17, 18 (pp. 253-294)
10	Aboriginal Inequality	GG ch. 19 (pp. 295-304); MacDonald and Wilson, "Poverty or Prosperity: Indigenous Children in Canada" (Moodle)
11	The Spirit Level: links between inequality, health, and society	Wilkinson and Pickett, chs. 1-3 (pp. xv-45)
12	The Spirit Level 2: the social costs of inequality RESEARCH PAPER DUE	Wilkinson and Pickett, chs. 4-6 (pp. 49-87)
13	The Spirit Level 3: what can we do to reduce inequality?	Wilkinson and Pickett, ch. 16 (pp. 235-272)
14	EXAM PERIOD	
15	EXAM PERIOD	

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two **exams**, one of them a midterm and the other a final exam, consisting of short-answer and essay-style questions.

There will also be a **group seminar presentation** required on one of the assigned readings. A sign-up sheet will be available in the first class.

Each student must write a **research paper** investigating some element of social inequality. The papers may focus on specific issues of inequality in Canada, or may look at debates about inequality at the level of theory. A list of possible topics and full details on the paper will be handed out by the second week of class.

There will be a set of online **fourth-hour** activities that will build on the readings and classroom material. Refer to the course website for more information. These will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

The **participation** mark will be based on:

- group work done in-class
- “minute papers”: very short papers (as short as a sentence) written in-class and marked as either “complete” or “incomplete.” These papers might ask you to summarize one of the main points of that day’s class, or of the readings for the class, or to think of a question that is related to the day’s topic that wasn’t answered in the lecture or discussion.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Midterm exam:	25%
Group seminar presentation:	10%
Research paper:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Fourth-hour online assignments:	10%
Participation:	<u>5%</u>
Total:	100%

GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Class attendance is essential to success in the course. Classes will involve lectures, videos, debates and discussions, small-group assignments, handouts, and other material. All of this is “examinable,” so if you miss a class for any reason, please arrange to get notes from a classmate.

Late Assignments: Late papers will be accepted, but with a 5% penalty for each day that the paper is late, including weekends.

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Missing an exam for any other reason will be accommodated only in special circumstances, and only with prior arrangement with the instructor.

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, "smart" watches, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all mobile phones and other devices and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.