



SYO 4530

SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Sections RC01 & RC02

University of Florida

Fall 2024

Class is scheduled to meet fully online as it is an asynchronous course. There are no class meetings, and all work is to be completed in Canvas.

Instructor: **Reha Atakan Cetin (he/him/his)**

e-mail: rcetin@ufl.edu

Online Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 AM-1 PM or by appointment via Zoom

Course Website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu> (Canvas)

*Please include “SYO4530” in your subject line when sending emails.

Course Description

SYO4530 – Social Inequality provides an in-depth exploration of social inequality, examining its various forms, causes, and consequences on individuals, groups, and societies. Students will delve into key themes including class, gender, race, sexuality, and the intersections between them. The course will cover theoretical frameworks, historical contexts, and contemporary issues to provide a comprehensive understanding of social inequality.

Through engaging lectures, discussions, and assignments, students will explore how social inequality manifests in different domains such as education, work, family, health, and the criminal justice system. The course aims to equip students with the analytical skills needed to critically examine the role of social institutions and policies in perpetuating or mitigating inequality.

This course is a General Education course and fulfills the Social and Behavioral Sciences (S) and Diversity (D) general education requirements and is worth 3 credit hours.

Instructional Methods and Policies

SYG4530 is delivered entirely online and conducted asynchronously without scheduled class meetings. All course components are accessible via Canvas, our learning management system. The course is structured into weekly modules corresponding to specific sociological themes, ensuring a progressive exploration of the course content.

This asynchronous format offers flexibility, enabling students to balance their studies with personal commitments. However, it demands disciplined time management to meet weekly deadlines and complete all required activities.

Student engagement is crucial for success in this course. Participants are encouraged to contribute to online discussions, enhancing both their understanding of sociological concepts and their ability to engage critically with peers. Active participation in all interactive and assessment components is essential.

Assessments include quizzes, discussion posts, a midterm exam, and final take home essay. All submissions are through Canvas.

Support is available through email and virtual meetings during office hours, ensuring students have access to assistance when needed.

Dean of Students Office Notification Service: Please note, the service is intended only for unique extenuating circumstances. Standard absences should be handled directly with the instructor.

General Education Objectives

Social and Behavioral Sciences (S): Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, or processes. This course emphasizes critical analysis and problem-

solving, enabling students to apply qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate social behaviors, decisions, and outcomes.

Diversity (D): Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups in the United States. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups.

As a General Education Course, SYG4530 is designed to address each of the following **General Education Student Learning Outcomes** regarding Content, Communication, and Critical Thinking.

- **Content** is knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology, and methodologies used within the discipline. Students demonstrate knowledge of sociological terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories. Assessment will be made through quizzes, midterm exam, discussion posts, and a final essay.
- **Communication** Is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms. Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline. The Communication SLO is assessed through discussion posts and peer responses.
- **Critical Thinking** is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. The Critical Thinking SLO is assessed through specific questions on the quizzes, discussion posts, as well as the midterm exam and final essay.

Compliance Statement

SYO 4530 Social Inequality may touch on topics germane to identity, but as subjects of study and not advocacy; in that spirit, we routinely teach on diverse theoretical perspectives rather than privileging one over the other. Discussions of identity are case- or data-driven rather than rooted in ideology or advocacy. Grading of assignments and/or exams focuses on understanding of content rather than adopting a specific opinion.

SYO 4530 may discuss systemic theories as they relate to sociological perspectives on social inequality, but it considers them in the context of other theoretical approaches and includes critique of all theoretical perspectives. The course does not endorse concepts of systemic racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege. It also does not treat inequalities or injustice as inherent, but instead discusses theoretical perspectives that explain whether and how social structures may create and reproduce inequalities. Such processes are viewed as contingent and negotiated and often contested rather than natural or determined.

SYO 4530 cites relevant facts based on research demonstrating how institutions are social contexts that shape inequalities within the United States and globally. Discussions of various interpretations are case- or data-driven rather than driven by an ideology. Grading of assignments and/or exams focuses on understanding of content rather than adopting a specific opinion.

Course Materials

Required Text: Gibbon et al. *Social Inequality: Forms, Causes, and Consequences*. 11th edition. ISBN: 9781003184966. (e-book version, other versions are also available at Amazon)

- E-book version can be found at <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/social-inequality-heather-m-fitz-gibbon-anne-v9781000626865>
- Occasional online readings, audio, or video materials –links will be available within the Modules on e-Learning platform at <http://elearning.ufl.edu>.

Canvas will be used extensively for all aspects of this online course. The modules provide free access to additional course materials, including readings and videos. Unless otherwise noted, these are required for the course. You will also use Canvas to watch weekly lectures, take quizzes, submit assignments, view your grades, and receive course announcements. Weekly materials including lecture videos, materials, and assignments will be published every Monday by noon.

A computer with a reliable internet connection is required for this course. If you experience issues with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by phone (352)392-HELP or online (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) or visit their physical location in the HUB at UF campus.

Course Requirements

1. Quizzes (4 x 30 pts / 20% of the final grade): Students are required to complete the assigned online quizzes, which typically include multiple-choice and true/false questions (30 questions in total) covering material from the previous weeks. Each quiz will focus on topics covered since the last quiz. The purpose of these quizzes is to evaluate students' understanding of the terminology and perspectives presented in the course materials. All quizzes and discussion posts must be submitted by the assigned date and time. Please carefully note the deadlines for all assignments.

2. Discussion Posts (3 x 40 pts / 30% of the final grade): Throughout this course, you will engage in thoughtful exploration of key themes in social inequality through the medium of online discussion posts. For each post, multiple open-ended questions will be provided, and you should choose one question to reflect on in depth.

These discussion posts serve as your platform for personal reflection on the topics discussed during the weeks, providing an opportunity for deeper understanding and critical thinking. Each main post should be comprehensive yet succinct, with a word length ranging between 800 to 1,000 words. Additionally, you are expected to **respond to two of your classmates' posts** each time. Your responses should be concise, comprising approximately 150 words each, where you offer constructive insights, share diverse perspectives, or ask meaningful questions. Each main post should critically engage with the course material and include citations from at least 3 additional scholarly sources.

The initial/main post will be due on Friday of the assigned week, and peer responses will be due on Sunday. This schedule is designed to give students ample time to read and review their classmates' posts and reflect on them thoughtfully.

3. Midterm Exam (30 pts / 20% of the final grade): The Midterm Exam assesses comprehension of all course materials from the beginning of the term up to the midterm, including lectures, videos, textbook readings, and supplementary resources. It will be administered online through Canvas, with each timed at 50 minutes (unless you have accommodations), requiring students to thoroughly engage with the weekly content to succeed.

4. Take Home Final Essay (50 pts / 30% of the final grade): In this final assignment, you will choose a movie related to the themes of social inequality discussed throughout the course and analyze it using specific prompts provided by the instructor.

The essay provides an opportunity to apply the concepts and perspectives learned in the course to a real-world example. Your analysis should be comprehensive yet succinct, with a length of 5 pages, double-spaced. The essay should critically engage with the course material and include citations from at least 5 additional scholarly sources. Specific question prompts and detailed guidelines will be provided to help guide your analysis.

Coursework Summary

Assignment	Points	Total Points	%
4 x Quizzes	30 (each)	120	20
3 x Discussion Posts	40 (each)	120	30
1 x Midterm Exam	30	30	20
1 x Take Home Final Essay	50	50	30
Total Grade		320	100

Course Policies

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to review weekly course materials regularly and thoroughly since they are required to complete the required assignments. Regular attendance and active participation are vital components of the learning process and are expected in this course. The University of Florida has a specific policy regarding attendance, which all students are required to adhere to. Please review the [UF Attendance Policy](#) to familiarize yourself with the expectations and requirements. Absences can impact your grade and understanding of the course material. If you anticipate any absences, please inform me as soon as possible.

Grading Policy: The grading in this course will be conducted in accordance with the University of Florida's grading policies. These policies outline the criteria for assessment, grade calculation, and the standards for academic performance. It is important for students to understand how their work and participation in this course will be evaluated. Please review the [UF Grading Policy](#) for comprehensive information on grading standards and procedures at the University of Florida.

Quiz/Exam Policy: Without exceptions, all students are equally required to complete the assignments and the requirements of the course.

Make-up Policy:

- **Quizzes, discussion posts, and midterm exam** will be open for the duration of their respective Module.
- **Late quizzes** (within one week of the posted deadline only) will count for no more than half credit.
- **Any written assignment** submitted late will have points deducted (10% per day, up to 5 days or 50%) unless you have made specific prior arrangements with the instructor. Any assignments submitted **more than 5 days late will not count for a credit.**
- The course is designed with a **specific schedule of deadlines, not at your own,** individualized pace. I am committed to providing the materials and opportunity for each student to succeed. As a student, you are expected to be familiar with the course policies and expectations, engage with the course material, and complete the required work.

Assignment Policy: Students are required to complete the course requirements including assignments in time. Late assignments without any prior notice will be considered following the conditions of make-up assignments. Students may ask for extensions prior to the due dates of the assignments if they have legit excuses.

Use of Language Learning Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT: Students are permitted to use language learning models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT to assist in their coursework. However, it is crucial to recognize that while these tools can be helpful, they may not always provide accurate or reliable information.

The objective is to encourage students to produce original work with honesty and integrity. Therefore, any use of LLMs should be clearly stated in all written work. This includes explaining the level of usage, what the tool was used for, and how it contributed to the final submission. For instance, if ChatGPT was used to generate initial ideas or provide explanations, this should be explicitly mentioned in your work. Important: **Failure to disclose the use of such tools will be considered a violation of academic integrity.**

University of Florida Policies

University Policy on **Accommodating Students** with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>).

The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams.

Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617//advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the Student Health Care Center website (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>).

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website (<https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services (<https://career.ufl.edu/>).

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources (<https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/>).

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring (<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>).

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>).

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>).

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process (<https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process/>).

Online Course Evaluation Policy: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email, they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP-select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Important Note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. Students MUST email the instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if they wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <https://distance.ufl.edu/>

Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Points	Percent
A	4.0	93-100
A-	3.67	90-92
B+	3.33	88-89
B	3.0	83-87
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	78-79
C	2.0	73-77
C-	1.67	70-72
D+	1.33	68-69
D	1.0	63-67
D-	.67	60-62
E	0	59-Below

***A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.**

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>.

Important!

This course is designed to be a safe space for each individual where all students are welcome to share their own ideas while being respectful for others. As every other topic in academia, sociology includes sensitive subjects through which people share their personal experiences, which may make them feel vulnerable. In that case, I expect all students to show utmost courtesy to each other, and utmost care not to perform any kind of aggression or interrupting behavior.

Course Schedule

Weeks	Dates	Chapters	Assignments Due
1	Aug 22-23	Syllabus Review	
2	Aug 26-30	1. An Introduction to the Study of Social Inequality	
3	Sept 2-6	2. Poverty, Wealth, and Inequality	Quiz 1 (Due September 13, 11:59pm).
4	Sept 9-13	3. Class, Governmental Policy, and Mobility	Discussion Post 1 (Initial Post due Friday, 13th, Responses due Sunday, 15th)
5	Sept 16-20	4. Status Inequality	
6	Sept 23-27	5. Power	Quiz 2 (Due September 27, 11:59pm).
7	Sept 30 - Oct 4	6. Classical Explanations of Inequality	
8	Oct 7-11	7. Contemporary Explanations of Inequality	Midterm Exam (Due October 11, 11:59 pm)
9	Oct 14-18	8. Sex and Gender Inequality	Discussion Post 2 (Initial Post due Friday, 18th, Responses due Sunday, 20th)

10	Oct 21-25	9. Sexual Orientation and Inequality	Quiz 3 (Due October 25, 11:59pm).
11	Oct 28 - Nov 1	10. Racial and Ethnic Inequality	
12	Nov 4-8	11. Immigration, Place, and Religion	Discussion Post 3 (Initial Post due Friday, 8th, Responses due Sunday, 10th)
13	Nov 11-15	12. Inequality, Health, and the Environment	
14	Nov 18-22	13. Inequality, Crime, and Criminal Justice	Quiz 4 (Due November 22, 11:59pm).
15	Nov 25-29	Holiday	Happy Thanksgiving! ☺
16	Dec 2-4	14. Social Inequality and Social Movements & 15. Policy Alternatives	

FINAL TAKE HOME ESSAY: Due December 10, 11:59 pm.

Disclaimer: All readings, assignments, and assessment tools are subject to change. Some readings or assignments may be added or deleted with prior notice from the instructor.