

# Bemidji State University

## SOC 3320: Social Class and Inequality

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 0

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

On some level, most people understand that social class matters; rarely do they grasp how by how much. The primary goal of this course is to examine social stratification, particularly focusing on social class, primarily in the contemporary United States, but also including historical and comparative information. It is only by doing so that we can understand why stratification is as it is in the United States and how and why it is different from those systems found elsewhere. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 01/12/2020 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction and explanation of social stratification, the U.S. class structure, process of social stratification, and social stratification beyond the U.S.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. differentiate among theoretical concepts associated with micro, meso, and macro levels of social stratification processes.
2. specify how social class and the political and economic institutions have affected one another over the course of U.S. history (Goal 5.2; BSU Goal 5B).
3. summarize the historical and contemporary mechanisms resulting in the development of the world stratification system (Goal 5.2; BSU Goal 5B).
4. compare the early and modern explanations for social stratification (Goal 5.3; BSU Goal 5C).
5. discuss the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary theories of poverty (Goal 5.4; BSU Goal 5D).
6. summarize the development of social class identities in the United States and the extent to which meanings attributed to these identities have changed over time (Goal 7.1; BSU Goal 7A).
7. discuss how gender and race/ethnicity interact with social class to produce unequal consequences (Goal 7.2; BSU Goal 7B).
8. compare social mobility opportunities and legitimation processes in the United States (Goal 7.2; BSU Goal 7B).
9. analyze their own attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors regarding social class and diversity (Goal 7.3; BSU Goal 7C).
10. differentiate the social classes according to income and wealth, basic necessities, and health and well-being (Goal 7.4; BSU Goal 7D).

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted