

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 31953 Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 10103 Introduction to Sociology

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343

Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores the economic, social, and cultural forces that generate and perpetuate unequal distributions of material and non-material resources. Examines the connection between standards of equality, types of poverty, and the likelihood that people from different groups and cultures experience upward mobility.

B. Additional Information

This course is an elective for the Sociology and Diversity Studies minors.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Discuss the social construction of inequality, power, and mobility.
2. Apply sociological theories to patterns of inequality, poverty, mobility.
3. Analyze current trends in inequality, poverty, and mobility.
4. Evaluate programs designed to ameliorate inequality, poverty, mobility.
5. Create presentations on inequality, poverty, and mobility that model equity.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze the causes of social problems through research and evaluation of varying sources. Students will assess proposed solutions. Students will represent and interpret statistical information and data in order to draw inferences.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how sociology impacts or is impacted by different cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Standards of Equality
- B. Forms of Social Stratification
- C. Types of Social Mobility
- D. The U.S. Stratification/Class System
- E. Global Inequality
- F. Anti-Poverty Movements and Programs
- G. Measures of Poverty and Equality