

# **SOC/SWK 420/SOC 5420 STRATIFICATION: CLASS, GENDER, RACE AND ETHNICITY - 3 semester credit hours**

## **II. SCOPE OF THE COURSE**

The course is designed to explore theoretical and empirical investigation of social stratification with reference to social class, race and ethnicity, and gender. An emphasis on marginalization and oppressed groups will be obvious. A salient focus will examine intervention and public policy implications of socially created and reinforced inequality.

## **III. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

- A. To analyze the origins, logical consistency, and conceptual consequences of the major theoretical perspectives addressing social stratification.
- B. To be conversant with the terrain of social inequality in contemporary American society.
- C. To evaluate empirical and theoretical knowledge dialectically.
- D. To examine the historical experiences and idealities of marginalized ethnic, lifestyle, religious and gender organized groups.
- E. To utilize critical analyses of poverty, prejudice, and discrimination to explore public policy implications emerging from social inequality.
- F. To develop intervention strategies at the micro and macro levels that are sensitive to culture differences, report the unique experience of each marginalized group and that are consistent with the values of the social work profession.
- G. To engage ethnocentric limitations and strive toward affirmation of cultural diversity.

## **IV. REQUIRED TEXT**

*Racial and Ethnic Groups* by Schaefer

## **V. ASSIGNED READING**

Each student is expected to read chapters of the text as assigned. Additional readings may be assigned from the library collection. Students should keep up with reading assignments on a routine basis as part of developing good study habits.

## **VI. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

Lecture will be the primary method used, with significant time allocated for class discussion.

## **VII. METHOD OF EVALUATION**

- A. A mid-term exam based on a total of 100 possible points, will be administered on announced dates during the semester. Tests will be announced at least one week before they are given. The test will count 40% of the semester grade.
- B. A comprehensive final examination, also with 100 possible points, will count 50% of the semester grade.
- C. Class participation will be evaluated and assigned a grade.
- D. Approximately one third of each test or exam will be derived from assigned readings, which may or may not be discussed by the professor in class. Graduate students will be required to answer an additional essay question on each exam and

also be evaluated more rigorously. A term paper is required accounting for 25% of the course grade.

E. Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

| GRADUATE:  | UNDERGRADUATE |
|------------|---------------|
| 93-100 = A | 90-100 = A    |
| 85-92 = B  | 80-89 = B     |
| 75-84 = C  | 70-79 = C     |
| 67-74 = D  | 60-69 = D     |

F. Under no circumstances will extra-credit assignments be given.

G. Students will not be allowed to make up tests or turn in assignments late unless:

1. A student is ill and provides evidence of same.
2. A student's family experiences serious illness or death--evidence of such may be required.
3. A student's absence is related to a school function approved by the Academic Dean (does not apply in the case of late assignments).
4. A student secures PRIOR excuse from the professor for reasons other than 1-3.

#### **VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

If a student accumulates (for any reason) more than three absences for a course, each additional absence must be removed by writing a three page, double spaced, typed paper with at least three sources other than an assigned reading on a subject related to the missed class. Failure to complete this assignment for each absence above the maximum allowed will result in two points subtracted from the student's semester grade average for each paper not turned in to the professor. Papers are due no later than one week after the student's return to class or when the final exam is administered, whichever is applicable. The student assumes the responsibility to secure an assignment from the professor if absences exceed the maximum allowed.

#### **IX. POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**

As noted in the university catalogue, academic dishonesty violates the principle of Christian education embraced by Mississippi College. Cheating on tests, assignments and/or papers will result in a grade of "F" for that assignment and referral of the student to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**POST SCRIPT** The professor reserves the right to deviate from the policies contained in this document.