

Social Stratification and Mobility

Course Syllabus

Professor:

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Course Information

Fall 2021

Time and place:

Lectures: Mondays, 12:00-14:00, online (Zoom)

Seminars: Thursdays, 12:00-14:00, **online (Zoom)**
until further notice

Office Hours

By appointment. Please contact me through e-mail to set up an online meeting

Course Website

Moodle: <https://tufis.ro/classes/>

You will receive invitations to register for the course on Moodle.

Course Description

The main course goal is to familiarize students with ideas, issues, and theories used in social stratification and social mobility theory and research. The course is also designed to introduce the specific concepts and language of social stratification studies, through exposure to both classical and current sociological research on social stratification and mobility.

Course Readings

Keister, L. A., & Southgate, D. E. (2012). *Inequality: A contemporary approach to race, class, and gender*. Cambridge University Press.

MacLeod, J. (2018). *Ain't no makin'it: Aspirations & attainment in a low-income neighborhood*. Routledge.

The two books above will be available on the Moodle course page. Additional readings will be posted on Moodle under each week. During the semester we'll watch and discuss a series of documentaries (Michael Apted's Up! Series). Links to the series will be posted on Moodle.

Course Requirements

- **Concepts.** Define/ explain some of the concepts we discussed during the previous week's lecture in your own words (seminar activity, your short answers will be typed in the Zoom chat)
- **Homework.** Brief weekly homework with questions for thought/ short exercises. To be completed before the seminar. You should have an electronic copy of your completed homework ready to (screen-)share during the seminar and discuss with your colleagues. You will have an opportunity to improve/ modify your answers based on the discussion and then submit the homework.
- **News Presentation.** An oral presentation based on news coverage of inequality/ stratification/mobility.
- **Book summary, comments, and discussion** (Ain't No Making It)
- **Final paper** investigating a topic related to social stratification/ mobility of your choice. You will need to include 5 articles from academic peer-reviewed journals (i.e. JSTOR) that discuss your chosen topic and at least some national statistics or data representing trends. You must consult with me to have your topic approved.
- In addition, it is expected that you complete your readings and other assignments *before* class.

Grading

Items	Calculation	Scores	Notes
Concepts	10 x 1p	10p	Weekly quizzes (typed in) during the seminars.
Homework	10 x 2p	20p	Weekly homework with questions that will guide our discussions during the seminars.
News Report	1 x 10p	10p	One oral presentation on current/recent news/events reported in the (English language/ foreign language) mass media about inequality, stratification, social class, or social mobility.
Book Report	1 x 20p	20p	Written short summary of the assigned book (<i>Ain't no makin'it ...</i>), including your own comments (2-3 pages, double-spaced) and accompanied by in-class discussion of the book.
Final Paper	1 x 40p	40p	Research paper, written based on 5 published (academic) research articles and at least some relevant national statistics/ trends (5-6 pages, double-spaced).
Total		100p	

Important!

Meet the deadlines! Late assignments will not be accepted unless a good reason (e.g. illness) exists, in which case please contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss a strategy to catch up and to agree on new deadlines.

Academic Integrity Policy

You are expected to submit your own original work and comply with the rules of academic integrity and conduct. In the context of this course, this basically means: be honest, don't cheat, and don't pass off someone else's work as your own. You are expected to clearly cite and indicate your sources for citations, ideas, concepts and paraphrases and your work should be more than a mosaic of ideas that others before you have already published. As a young researcher, you should see your work as contributing to an ongoing discussion in the academic field, therefore you need to be able to distinguish between your voice and others' voices in your writing. I expect to see that in all the work you submit for this class, be it your short answers to questions for thought, your book review, or your final paper.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, you should consult this short guide here: <https://english.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/plagiarism-policy/> . **You will not receive a passing grade for this course if you turn in plagiarized work.**

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Calendar

Week	Lecture	Seminar		Concepts	Homework
		Activity			
#01, Oct 4 th	<i>Fall Semester Opening Week - No class and no seminar scheduled.</i>				
#02, Oct 11 th	<i>Course Introduction. We'll chat about the course and get to know each other a bit.</i> L1. Social Stratification and Opportunities	Watch 1 st documentary: <i>Seven Up!</i> on your own.	Up! Seminar discussion (1 hr.)	Trial	Trial
#03, Oct 18 th	L2. Explaining Stratification: Theories and Ideas	News presentations (group 1)		C1	HW1
#04, Oct 26 th	L3. Understanding Social Stratification: Methods of Evaluation	<i>Seven + Seven Up</i> (watch on your own)	Up! Seminar discussion (1 hr.)	C2	HW2
#05, Nov 1 st	L4. Class and the Structure of Inequality	News presentations (group 2)		C3	HW3
Nov. 5th - Homework packet I due (HW1, HW2, HW3)					
#06, Nov 8 th	L5. The Upper Class and the Elite	<i>21 Up</i> (watch on your own)	Up! Seminar discussion (1 hr.)	C4	HW4
#07, Nov 15 th	L6. The Middle Class and Workers	News presentations (group 3)		C5	HW5
#08, Nov 22 nd	L7. The Working Poor and the Underclass	<i>49 Up</i> (watch on your own)	Up! Seminar discussion (1 hr.)	C6	HW6
Nov. 26th - Homework packet II due (HW4, HW5, HW6)					
#09, Nov 29 th	L8. Social Mobility	Read <i>Ain't no makin'it</i> on your own during the next couple of weeks and prepare your book report for Week #12	News presentations (group 4)	C7	HW7
#10, Dec 6 ^h	L9. Education and Inequality		News presentations (group 5)	C8	HW8
#11, Dec 13 th	L10. Women and Their Changing Position		<i>63 Up</i> (watch on your own)	Up! Seminar discussion (1 hr.)	C9
#12, Dec 20 th	== Open Topic TBA ==	Group discussion of <i>Ain't no makin'it</i> . Book Report due.		C10	HW10
Dec. 23rd - Homework packet III due (HW7, HW8, HW9, HW10)					
<i>Winter Break</i>					
#13, Jan 3 rd	<i>Work on your final papers with help from myself and the course's TA. We will be available during the lecture and seminar time slots for consultations.</i>				
#14, Jan 10 th					
January 24th – Final paper due					