Objectives: The purpose of this course is to describe and analyze class inequalities in the United States. Lectures and readings will focus on the description of types and dimensions of inequalities and social mobility. Special attention will also be given to gender, race and ethnic inequalities as they create and perpetuate systems of structured inequalities, especially class inequalities. The nature and extent of class inequalities in the United States will then be compared with societies other than the United States.

Readings: Readings have been listed along with the topics to be covered each week. It is recommended that you purchase a copy of the following book, which will serve as the text in this course:


Additional readings will be recommended from other books and journals. Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*). The recommended readings will be placed on reserve in the library for your convenience. Additional readings may be assigned later.

Examinations and Grades: There will be a mid-term exam on June 30 and a final in class examination on August 4. Each of these two examinations will count for 40 percent of the grade. Format of these examinations will be of objective type (half true/false and the other half multiple choice). In addition, each student will select and review a book dealing with some aspect of inequality and write a three page critical review of that book. The review is due on July 28 (no early or late submission) and will count for 20 percent of the grade.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.
COURSE SCHEDULE

May 19  Introduction: Organization and Overview; Review Requirements; Systems of Stratification; Definitions and concepts; Social Stratification in Modern World System

Readings

*Kerbo, Chapter 1
"Social Stratification" in vol. 15 in International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences
Grusky, D. "Introduction" Pp.3-51 in GRU

May 26  Nature and Development of Social Stratification Theory and Early Statements about inequality: Marx, Weber and Durkheim; and their legacies

Readings

*Kerbo, Chapters 3-4
K. Marx and F. Engels, The Communist Manifesto (or see passages in SSI: 14-24)
K. Marx, "Alienation and Social Classes, Classes in capitalism and pre-capitalism, Ideology and Class, and Value and Surplus Value" in GRU
Emile Durkheim, "The Division of Labor in Society", pp 178-183 in GRU

June 2  Modern Theories of Social Stratification: Functional and Conflict theories

Readings

*Kerbo, Chapter 5
Gerhard Lenski, Power and Privilege
Ralf Dahrendorf, Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society
Frank Perkins, "Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique" in GRU 162-177.

June 9  Dimensions of Inequality

*Kerbo, Chapters 2
June 16  The Elite: the Upper Class and the Corporate Class

   Readings

   *Kerbo, Chapter 6 and 7


June 23  The Middle and Working Classes

   Readings

   *Kerbo, Chapter 8

   Christopher Jencks, Who Gets Ahead?: 213-231

   Edward Pessen, Three Centuries of Social Mobility in America: 260-305.

JUNE 30   MID-TERM EXAM  (IN CLASS)

July 7   The Poor, the lower classes and/or the underclass

   Readings

   *Kerbo, Chapter 9


July 14  Social Mobility: The Process of Social Stratification

   Readings

   *Kerbo, Chapter 12

   Peter Blau and Otis D. Duncan, American Occupational Structure

   Christopher Jencks, Inequality

   .............., Who Gets Ahead
July 21  Gender, Race, and Ethnic Inequality
And July 28

Readings

*Kerbo, Chapter10 and 11
Tony Tam, “Why Do Female Occupations Pay Less,” in GRU Pp.781-792
William J. Wilson, "The Declining Significance of Race" in GRU: 611-623.

August 4                     FINAL EXAM (in Class)