

**Inequality: Class, Race, Gender and Global  
Sociology 322  
Spring 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia M. Hewitt

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Office: 207 Wheeler Hall

Office Hours: Wed. 3:15-5:00; Fri. 9:00-10:00

Course Website: [www.coursesites.com](http://www.coursesites.com)

Class: Mon./Wed. 2:00 – 3:15

**Course Goals**

This course will have three focal areas: theory; contemporary issues; and field work. We encourage you to think and study about the fundamental deep structures into which people are born and navigate their lives, resulting in social positions characterized as poor or rich, powerful or oppressed, honored or despised, and all gradations in between. We look at what factors impact group and individual earnings, wealth, occupation, prestige and respect in society, and how this social structure is changing, or can be changed, particularly focusing on issues of class, race, gender, and environmental justice. Facts about inequality are presented primarily through looking at the research of various social scientists, and theories for why these findings occur are summarized. The class is then encouraged to evaluate the explanations and reach their own conclusions. This course covers both the contemporary situation and trends, and the historical context which is necessary to achieve a full understanding. The focus is on U.S. society, however, it can best be understood within a larger world historic context of global inequality.

**Required Texts:**

Ifi Amadiume, *Reinventing Africa*. (New York: Zed).

Melvin Oliver and Thomas M. Shapiro, 2006. *Black Wealth/White Wealth*. Routledge.

Robert Reich, 1992. *The Work of Nations: Preparing Ourselves for Twenty-First Century Capitalism*. Vintage.

**Assignments**

- A. You will be assigned to watch/listen/read one Event Article or News Report daily. Bring a paper copy/or summary or upload a digital a news article or analytical report relevant to topics of inequality being discussed in the course. Be prepared to discuss relevance of the contribution. Due bi-weekly; 6 due in total.

**Sources:**

- *New York Times*
- *The Washington Post*
- Democracy Now! – (Radio) FM 89.3, 4:30-6:00 PM Weekdays; On-line and Cable
- National Public Radio – FM 90.1 6:00-9:00AM and 4:00-7:30PM Weekdays; On-line.
- The Black Commentator
- Truthout and other Official, NGO and organizational reports and findings

## B. Short Papers:

1. Data-based paper (15%)
2. Study of Inequality and Social Change – The InTeGrate Project (20%).

### **Evaluation**

10%	Current Events
35%	Short Papers
30%	Tests (2)
25%	Final

### **Policies**

All written papers and take-home exams must be submitted *during class* on paper *as well as* uploaded to the course website on the due date to establish a permanent record and facilitate evaluation. After the class in which an assignment is due, work which is turned in will be considered late, and lose 5 points, and then 3 points for each day thereafter, including weekends.

Some class sessions may be held as on-line class chat or discussion sessions through Web-CT, rather than meeting in the classroom.

### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are expected to attend each class meeting. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will be referred to the Office of Student Success and may be administratively withdrawn from the course. Failure to meet minimum attendance requirements may result in the loss of the student's financial aid in accordance with federal financial aid requirements.

### **EEO & DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

Morehouse College is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution. Students with disabilities or those who suspect they have a disability must register with the Office of Disability Services ("ODS") in order to receive accommodations. Students currently registered with the ODS are required to present their Disability Services Accommodation Letter to faculty immediately upon receiving the accommodation. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Disability Services, 104 Sale Hall Annex, Morehouse College, 830 Westview Dr. S.W., Atlanta, GA 30314, (404) 215-2636.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Morehouse College students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest level of ethics and academic honesty at all times and abide by the terms set forth in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to plagiarism and cheating on examinations and assignments, are taken seriously and may result in a failing grade for the assignment or course and may be reported to the Honor and Conduct Review Board for disciplinary action.

**Syllabus is not a Contract:** A syllabus is not a contract between instructor and student, but rather a guide to course procedures. The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus when conflicts, emergencies or circumstances dictate. Students will be duly notified.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** In the event of inclement weather, the College will announce any closures via the emergency notification system and/or through local news outlets. Absent an official closure, students are not excused from attending class due to weather and any absences will be considered unexcused.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	ASSIGNMENTS
1	JAN 20	<b>Introduction: Social Stratification</b> Is inequality between people inevitable? How much? When? Why?
2	JAN 25	<b>Dimensions of Inequality: Social Justice and Local Food Systems</b> "Realizing Justice in Local Food Systems," by Patricia Allen
3	FEB 1	<b>Wealth Inequality – by Race, Nationally and Globally</b> READING: <i>Black Wealth/White Wealth</i> by Melvin Oliver and Robert Shapiro, Selections Cynthia Hewitt, "One Capital Indivisible Under God: The IMF and Reparation for Slavery in a Time of Globalized Wealth"
4	FEB 8	<b>Wealth Inequality – Theories of Origins and Processes</b> READING: Karl Marx on Primitive Accumulation "Life and Debt," video on the IMF, WTO and World Bank and Conditionalities in Jamaica "Stealing Africa," on corporate transfer pricing and tax evasion 'Vulture Funds' Interview with Greg Palast on <i>DemocracyNow!</i> <a href="http://www.democracynow.org/2007/2/15/vulture_fund_company_seeks_40_million">http://www.democracynow.org/2007/2/15/vulture_fund_company_seeks_40_million</a>
5	FEB 15	<b>Wealth Inequality Solutions? – Saving Your Market and Why Should Banks Have All the Fun: Making Your Own Money</b> "Thomas Sankara," video on the heroic struggle he led in Burkina Faso to regain control of their markets and policy-making "Confessions of an Economic Hitman," <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-a6jzUOYgQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-a6jzUOYgQ</a> Joseph Stiglitz on the the BRICS New Development Bank: <a href="http://www.democracynow.org/2014/7/17/nobel_economist_joseph_stiglitz_hails_new">http://www.democracynow.org/2014/7/17/nobel_economist_joseph_stiglitz_hails_new</a> New Currencies? Check out Bitcoins: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4tNqL02ECO">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4tNqL02ECO</a> Ithaca Ithacoins and Itha Hours: <a href="http://cointelegraph.com/news/ithaca-ny-launches-its-own-digital-currency-to-boost-local-economy">http://cointelegraph.com/news/ithaca-ny-launches-its-own-digital-currency-to-boost-local-economy</a> ALSO SEE: "U.N. Group Recommends 'Reparatory Justice' for African Americans" EXTRA CREDIT: View "Zeitgeist" video, Section on Central Banking. Who's in charge?
6	FEB 22	<b>States, Patriarchy and Matrism: Gender Inequality</b> READINGS: <i>Reinventing Africa: Matriarchy, Religion &amp; Culture</i> by Ifi Amadiume, Chapters 1-5 "Wat Nt Shemsw: Myth, History, Philosophy, and Literature. The African Record" Chapter by Ayi Kwei Armah

		EXTRA CREDIT: <i>The Healers</i> , a novel by Ayi Kwei Armah
7	FEB 29	<b>Occupational Inequality and Labor: Symbolic Analysts</b> <i>The Work of Nations</i> by Robert Reich, Chapter 1 – 5, 6, 10 – 13 (All chapters are good, but if pressed for time, read the assigned chapters.) World-Systems Theories of Immanuel Wallerstein and Samir Amin
8	MAR 7	<b>Spring Break</b>
9	MAR 14	<b>Educational Inequality and The Politics of Succession</b> <i>The Work of Nations</i> by Robert Reich, Chapter 14, 15, 17 – 19, 24, 25 (All chapters are good, but if pressed for time, read the assigned chapters.) 'Waitressing and Educational Reform', Article
10	MAR 21	<b>InTeGrate: Geoscience Systems Thinking and Investigating the FEW/Nexus: Week 1</b> Global Footprint Analysis and Overshoot
11	MAR 28	<b>InTeGrate: Geoscience Systems Thinking and Investigating the FEW/Nexus: Week 2</b> U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) → Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Eric Olin Wright's Class Analysis and Thomas Boston's Class Analysis
12	APR 4	<b>InTeGrate: Geoscience Systems Thinking and Investigating the FEW/Nexus: Week 3</b> "An Inconvenient Truth," with Al Gore
13	APR 11	<b>Steady-State Economics for Sustainable Societies</b> <i>Beyond Growth</i> by Herman Daly, Selection I
14	APR 18	<b>Steady-State Economics for Sustainable Societies</b> <i>Beyond Growth</i> by Herman Daly, Selection II
15	APR 25	Final Evaluations