

**Course Outline for: SOC 1109 Wealth and Poverty****A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 - History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Goal #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Understanding social inequality is a key part of understanding human experiences and opportunities. Using a sociological perspective to delve into issues such as race, class, and gender, students explore the causes and consequences of inequality in the United States and in other countries across the globe. By analyzing the historical roots, contemporary realities, and sociological explanations of inequality, students assess the issue of social hierarchy and its effects on the human condition. Students evaluate the ways by which structural inequalities, like limited educational or job opportunities, racism, and sexism are linked to the everyday experiences of individuals and groups within society.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** March 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Sociological theories related to inequality
2. Global inequality
3. Historical and contemporary bases of inequality including race, class, and gender
4. Differential access to power, prestige, and political influence
5. Forms of oppression related to inequality (i.e., racism, sexism, classism, etc.)
6. Education and social mobility
7. Consequences of social stratification and connections with other statuses (i.e., race, ethnicity, gender, etc.)
8. Social class, status, prestige, and life chances
9. Poverty, place, and public policy
10. Inequality and social change

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Evaluate how identities (e.g., race, class, gender) influence unequal access to resources, prestige, power, and privilege in society. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 7Ab)
2. Analyze how changing group identities have shaped experiences of privilege and oppression within American social hierarchies. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5b, 7Aa)

3. Analyze how structural inequities at both the individual and institutional level have influenced the experiences, challenges, and contributions of minoritized groups. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5b, 7Ad)
4. Evaluate the primary causes and consequences of inequality for individuals and groups within society using sociological science perspectives. (Goal 2a, 2c, 5a, 5c)
5. Analyze contemporary and historical policies designed to address systems of inequality in the U.S. and across the globe. (Goal 2c, 5b, 7Ab)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exams
2. Quizzes
3. Journals
4. Research papers
5. Oral presentations
6. Written assignments
7. Group work

**F. Special Information:**

None