**CAS CC204 Spring 2011**

**Core Social Sciences II: The Problem of Inequality**

Main Lecture: Thursdays 2-3:30pm, CAS 522

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**Faculty**
- David Swartz, coordinator (Sociology)  
  dswartz@bu.edu
- Maureen Sullivan (Core)  
  maureens@bu.edu
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- Thornton Lockwood (Core)  
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**Discussion Sections**
- HS TTH 3:30-5pm  
  CAS 119
- B1 MWF 11-12am  
  CAS 320
- B2 MWF 10-11am  
  CAS 119
- B3 MWF 12-1pm  
  CAS 320
- B4 TH 12:30-2pm  
  CAS 212
- B5 TH 3:30-5pm  
  CAS 425

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**Core Social Sciences II** will study contemporary approaches to the problem of inequality primarily in American society though there will be some international comparisons. The goal of this course is to use exemplary research in the Social Sciences to grapple with a problem that has implications for almost every aspect of our social, political, and economic life today. Lectures and readings will bring insights, statistical data, and modes of analysis from sociology, psychology, history, anthropology political science, economics, and international relations.

Grades will be determined by your discussion section professor. They will be based on a combination of written work and class participation, and will likely follow these proportions:

- Seminar papers - 40%
- Research paper - 45%
- Seminar participation - 15%

**Research Paper.** The principal assignment of the semester will be a research paper of approximately 12-15 pages in length on a topic related to one or more of the themes of the course. Students will develop paper topics in consultation with the leaders of their discussion sections and will be expected to begin independent secondary research and writing already by mid-semester, though the final version is due at the end of the semester. Seminar leaders will outline specific steps, such as topic selection, rough outline, annotated bibliography, detailed outline and/or rough draft), and their specific due dates for preparation of the research paper.

**Seminar Papers.** Seminar leaders will assign a few shorter papers on various topics and you should consult your section syllabus for specifics.

**Class Participation.** A significant portion of your final grade will be based on class participation. Regular attendance at both Thursday lectures and individual section meetings is of course key. Good participation goes beyond attendance, however; any form of positive, active and reflective involvement in the course, such as asking or responding to questions, participating in class discussions, sending emails with substantive queries, and attending office hours to discuss class material, could enhance your final grade. Your discussion section professor will indicate how participation will be evaluated in your particular section and the forms of participation that he particularly values.
The Thursday lectures are an integral part of the course - not an optional component - and they will be discussed in the sections. A portion of your participation grade will measure your attendance and understanding of the lectures. Take good lecture notes and bring them to the sections for discussion. Discuss them with fellow students and your professors. Avoid any commercial use of lecture and section materials, such as buying or selling notes, summaries, handouts, and other course materials. Buying such materials is a waste of your money. There is no substitute for being there yourself and engaging the assigned materials directly. To rely on a commercial substitute would be like pontificating on a text that you have never read! And selling your class notes would be tantamount to what one of our thinkers from the first semester called “estranged labor,” giving away your “species-being” for a price!

The Core Writing Center in CAS 129 is available for help throughout the semester. The Core faculty encourage you to make good use of it. Writing Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core Office (CAS 119) or call 353-5404. Tutors’ offices are in the Core Office.

Academic Conduct. We expect the work you perform in this course to be your own. Presenting the work of someone else as your own, in any way, shape, or form, is plagiarism, and it will be punished by an F for the assignment and possibly for the course as well; more severe sanctions by the University Academic Conduct Committee are possible. The Boston University Academic Conduct Code describes plagiarism as including each of the following: “copying the answers of another student on an examination, copying or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work without citing the appropriate source, and collaboration with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution” (p. 2). A more detailed discussion with examples appears on pp. 9-14 of the Code. It is your responsibility to read these pages carefully and know exactly what constitutes plagiarism.

Required Texts
- De Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex (Vintage, 1989)
- Fanon, Franz. The Wretched of the Earth (Grove Press, 2004)
- Katznelson, Ira. When Affirmative Action was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America (Norton, 2005)
- Lareau, Annette. Unequal Childhodrs: Class, Race, and Family Life (Univ. of California, 2003)

In addition, all assigned readings not found in the above texts will be posted on BlackBoard and at http://bu.edu/core/cc204, and will be handed out in hard copy in lecture or sections.
Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1: **Orienting Themes from First-Year Core and Contemporary Foundations for Thinking About Inequality**
Lecture: January 20, by Stephanie Nelson (Classics) and David Swartz (Sociology)
- Massey, *Categorically Unequal*, chap. 1 “How Stratification Works”

Week 2: **Class Inequality**
Lecture: January 27, by David Swartz (Sociology)
Readings: - Massey, *Categorically Unequal*, chap. 2 “The Rise and Fall of Egalitarian Capitalism”
- Wright, Erik Olin, “Understanding Classes”
- Weber, Max, “Class, Status, Party”
- Davis and Moore, “Some Principles of Stratification”

Week 3: **African-American Inequality - The Legacy of Slavery**
Lecture: February 3, by Thornton Lockwood (Core) and David Swartz (Sociology)
- Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White*, preface, chaps. 1-2, 5-6
- Massey, *Categorically Unequal*, chap. 3 “Reworking the Color Line”

Week 4: **Racial Inequality into the Twenty-First Century**
Lecture: February 10, by John Stone (Sociology)
Readings: - TBA (check http://bu.edu/core/cc204 for updates)

Week 5: **Gender Inequality I: Theories and Origin Stories**
Lecture: February 17, by Maureen Sullivan (Core)
- Rubin, Gayle, “The Traffic in Women: Notes Toward a Political Economy of Sex”

Week 6: **Gender Inequality II: Empirical Demonstration in the U.S.**
Lecture: February 25, by Maureen Sullivan (Core)
- Romero, Mary, *Made in USA* “An Exploratory Study” and “Bonds of Sisterhood – Bonds of Oppression”
- Massey, *Categorically Unequal*, chap. 6 “Engendering Inequality”

Week 7: **When Do We Measure? What Do We Measure?**
Lecture: March 3, by Eric Kolaczyk (Mathematics)
Week 8: **The Uses and Abuses of Ability Measures II**  
Lecturer: March 10, by Eric Kolaczyk (Mathematics)  

**SPRING RECESS:** Week of March 13

Week 9: **Class, Race, Family Life, and Educational Inequality**  
Lecture: March 24, by David Swartz (Sociology)  
Readings: - Lareau, *Unequal Childhoods*, chaps. 1, 3-5, 8-9, 12, and Appendix A

Week 10: **Educational Inequality – Merit and Elite College Admissions**  
Lecture: March 31, by David Swartz (Sociology)  
- Steele, C. M., “A threat in the air: How stereotypes shape intellectual identity and performance”

Week 11: **Inequality in International Relations**  
Lecture: April 7, by Michael Corgan (International Relations)  
Readings: - Hey, Jeanne A. K., ed, *Small States in World Politics* (selections TBA)

Week 12: **Inequality and Resistance in International Relations**  
Lecture: April 14, by Michael Corgan (International Relations)  
Readings: - Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* “On Violence in the International Context”,  
“Grandeur and Weakness of Spontaneity”, “The Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness” and “On National Culture”

**Week 13:** NO THURSDAY LECTURE APRIL 21 (Monday substitute classes on Thursday)

Week 14: **Inequality, Equality and Hierarchy in Historical and Anthropological Perspective**  
Lecture: April 28, by Thomas Barfield (Anthropology)  
Reading: - Dumont, *Homo Hierarchicus*, pp. 21-78, 184-200, 217-246,  
Appendix A: Caste, Racism and “Stratification” (pp. 247-266)

Week 15: **Integrating Forum** on May 5 (last day of classes)