

SOU33041 — Social Stratification and Inequalities 1

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU33041
Module Title	Social Stratification and Inequalities 1: Theories, Realities, and Representations of Social Inequality
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Junior Sophister
Module Personnel	Dr Marco Seegers
Academic Year	Michaelmas Term
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	22

Module Content	
Module Description	This course delves into the ways in which individuals and groups are hierarchically organized, examining the social, economic, and political processes that maintain these structures. By exploring topics such as class, power, race, and gender, the course highlights how inequality shapes opportunities, behaviours, and outcomes. We will investigate both historical and contemporary mechanisms that create and perpetuate stratification, drawing on empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks from sociology and related disciplines. In addition to academic inquiry, the course fosters critical thinking through visual analyses, encouraging students to interpret and critique depictions of inequality in media and culture. By connecting abstract concepts to real-world phenomena, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of inequality and the tools to engage with contemporary debates. The course equips students to reflect on possible solutions to reduce disparities and promote equity in various social contexts. Through theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence, students will gain a critical understanding of the structural and cultural processes underpinning inequality. The course also integrates sociological analyses of visual media, encouraging students to

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	connect abstract concepts to real-world representations. By the end of the module, students will be equipped to engage with contemporary debates on inequality and to think critically about solutions to address social disparities.
Module Learning Aims	To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and empirical foundations of social stratification and inequality. To explore key dimensions of inequality, such as power, class, race, gender, and education, and their interconnections. To develop students' ability to critically analyse social inequality through both academic literature and visual media. To encourage students to reflect on the future challenges of inequality and potential sociological contributions to addressing them.
Learning Outcomes	Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts, theories, and dimensions of social stratification and inequality. Critically analyse empirical evidence on the causes and consequences of inequality. Apply sociological theories to interpret visual and cultural representations of inequality. Evaluate global and local strategies for reducing inequality and promoting social justice. Communicate complex ideas effectively through writing, discussion, and group presentations.
Indicative Reading / Resources	

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Photo Assignment (50%), Group Film Analysis (50%)
Assessment Details	Photo Assignment (50%): Each student will submit five original photographs, taken by themselves, illustrating examples of social inequality observed in their daily lives. A brief reflective commentary must accompany the images, linking them to course concepts and sociological theories. Group Film Analysis (50%): Students will be randomly assigned to groups to complete a written analysis of a contemporary movie, focusing on sociological themes of inequality discussed in class.

Additional Information

Prerequisites

This is an advanced undergraduate module. Students enrolling should have:

- A basic familiarity with sociological theory and empirical research.
- The ability to critically read and interpret academic texts, synthesize theoretical arguments, and express complex ideas in writing and discussion.

While no statistical or quantitative skills are formally required, students should be prepared to engage with empirical data and theoretical debates on inequality using both written texts and visual media.

Co-requisites

None

Any other information