

SOU33052 — Social Stratification and Inequalities 2

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU33052
Module Title	Social Stratification and Inequalities 2
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Junior Sophister
Module Personnel	Joonghyun Kwak
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	1 lecture and 1 tutorial per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This module provides an introduction to the field of social stratification and inequalities. Social stratification is one of the most important topics in sociology because everything we study is directly or indirectly related to inequalities—its causes, its consequences, and its implications for social policy. We will cover the major theoretical perspectives, ranging from classical to contemporary, that have animated the field. We will also examine a diverse range of substantive topics, with a particular focus on education. As a critical social institution, education plays a dual role in enabling individuals' status attainment while also contributing to the reproduction of social inequalities. The module explores questions such as: How is access to education unequally distributed? In what ways might education contribute to social mobility or reinforce inequality? How does a meritocratic system based on educational attainment help maintain existing social hierarchies? Drawing on a range of sociological perspectives, the module provides a critical understanding of the role of education in contemporary systems of social stratification.
Module Learning Aims	

Module Content	
Learning Outcomes	Students successfully completing this module will be able to: • Evaluate sociological theories and empirical research related to social inequalities and education; • Analyse how social inequalities are linked to educational structures and outcomes; • Critically discuss the concept of meritocracy and its societal implications on social inequalities.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Grusky, David B. and Jasmine Hill. 2018. Inequality in the 21st Century: A Reader. Westview Press Arum, Richard, Irene R. Beattie and Karly Ford. 2015. The Structure of Schooling. Sage Publications

Assessment	
Assessment Components	Sociological autobiography 40%, Exam 40%, Presentation 10%, Participation 10%
Assessment Details	In-person exam.

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	