



SOCI 218:10

Social Inequality in Canada



Instructor:

Dr. Joel Z. Garrod
jgarrod@stfx.ca

Location:

Mulroney Hall 2032
U7/U8

Office Hours:

By appointment

This course explores the distribution of social, political, and economic resources in Canadian society, and the unequal access to those resources based on class, race, Indigenous status, ethnicity, age, disability, and region.

Looked at through the lens of class and power, we will examine the socio-economic roots of social inequality, as well as the causes and consequences of poverty in Canada. Special attention will be paid to the transformation of social inequality over time, as well as the rise and impact of neoliberal social policies. The course will conclude with a reflection on the state of social inequality today, and whether things could be different.

Course Objectives & Textbook

By the end of this course, you should have:

- A broad grasp of the origins and impacts of social inequality
- A general knowledge of how social inequality intersects with class, race, gender, age, ability, and region
- A critical view of the rise of neoliberal social policy
- An understanding of the main drivers of social inequality today



The textbook for this course is available at the StFX bookstore:

Grabb et al. (2017). *Social inequality: Dimensions of disadvantage*. Oxford University Press.

All other readings can be found on Moodle

I truly believe that this course is relevant to your lives. If, at any time during this course, you feel that what we're learning isn't useful, I urge you to ask me: "Why should I give a damn?"

I'll gladly take time to explain why I believe what we're learning is important for you to know. And if I can't explain why, I'll amend that section of the course.



Requirements

Attendance is absolutely vital to this course, and will likely be a necessary part of getting a good grade. In return for attending, I promise to make the course interesting, and worthwhile. If you are unable to attend regularly, please talk to me about possible accommodations.

The **Midterm** will assess your understanding of course materials and concepts up to the middle of the term. You will be asked to read the article, "The town with no poverty," and evaluate what sorts of impacts a universal basic income would have on inequality in Canada. **October 14**

The **Inequality or Service Learning Paper** is intended to get you thinking about the role of inequality in Canadian society. If you choose the **Inequality Paper**, you will choose a news report focusing on a socio-economic circumstance faced by Canadians experiencing social inequality. The topic must have a socio-economic and policy dimension. You will then provide a critical analysis of the issue. If you choose the **Service Learning Paper**, you will volunteer for 20 hours with a community partner and produce a paper based on your experiences. The paper will focus on what was learned about living with social inequalities through your service work. **December 6**

The **Final Exam** will assess your understanding of course material and concepts from the entire term. It will consist of a single essay question. **Sometime in exam period**

Grading		
✓	Attendance:	10%
✓	Midterm:	20%
✓	Inequality Paper:	35%
✓	Final Exam:	35%

All citations in APA or ASA Style	Double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font	Late items lose 5 marks per day
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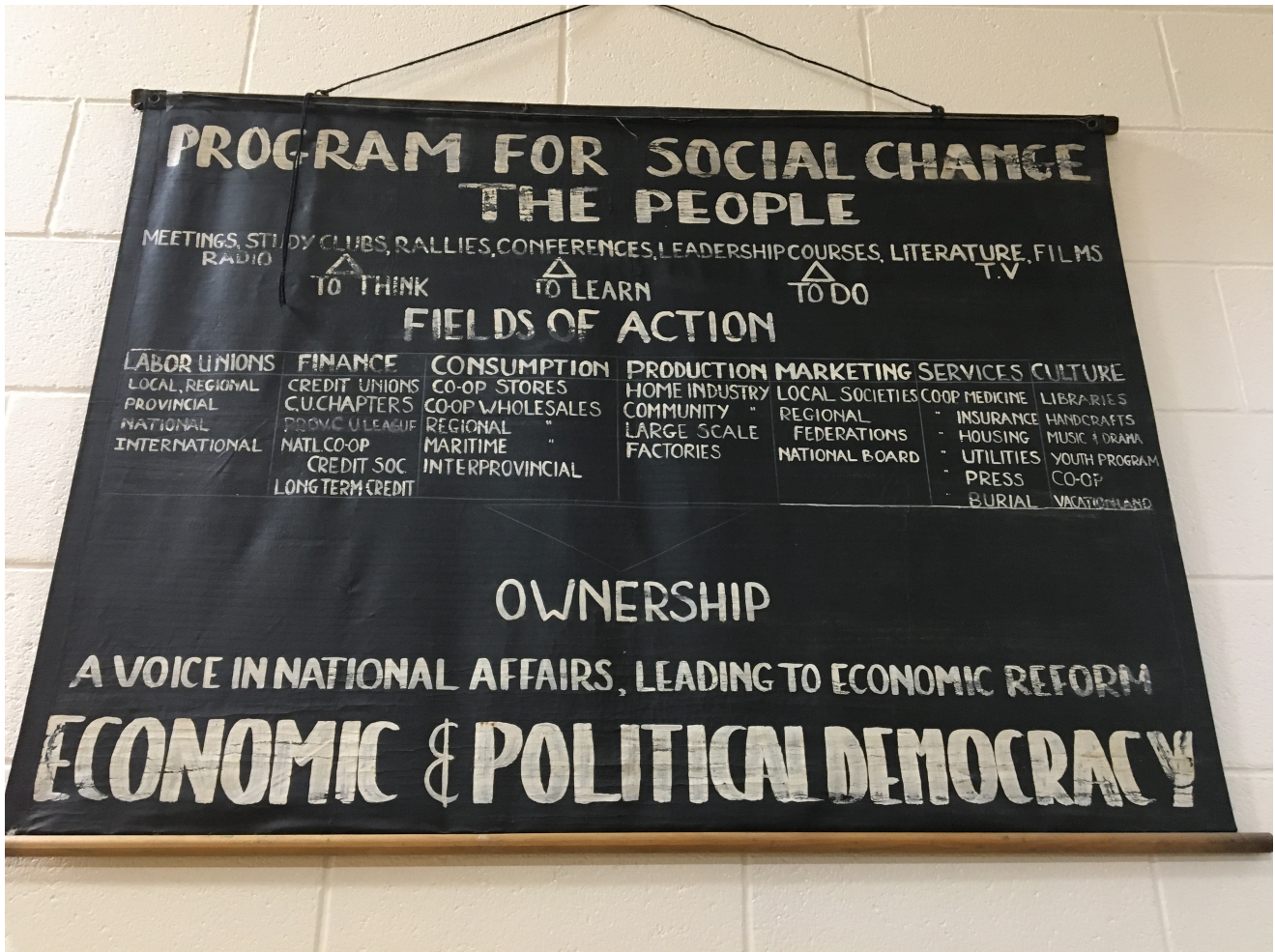
Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 9	Introduction	Syllabus
Sept 13	What is Inequality? Film: <i>Seven Up!</i>	Grabb, "Social inequality: Theoretical and conceptual issues"
Sept 16	Power and Class	Grabb et al., Chapters 1-3
Sept 20	Power and Class	Grabb et al., Chapters 1-3
Sept 23	Income, Wealth, and Poverty	Grabb et al., Chapters 4 & 5
Sept 27	Homelessness	Grabb et al., Chapter 22
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	No readings
Oct 4	Occupation Film: <i>Free Lunch Society</i>	Grabb et al., Chapters 6 & 7 Marx, "Estranged labour"
Oct 7	Basic Income	Forget, "The town with no poverty"
Oct 11	Thanksgiving	No readings
Oct 14	Midterm	No readings
Oct 18	Education	Grabb et al., Chapter 8

Date	Topic	Readings
Oct 21	Education	Grabb et al., Chapter 9
Oct 25	Ethnicity, Race, Language, Ancestry	Grabb et al., Chapters 10 & 12
Oct 28	Ethnicity, Race, Language, Ancestry	Grabb et al., Chapters 13 & 24
Nov 1	Gender	Grabb et al., Chapters 14 & 15
Drop Date Nov 3		
Nov 4	Gender and Sexual Orientation	Grabb et al., Chapters 16 & 17
Nov 8	Fall Break	No readings
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	No readings
Nov 15	Age	Grabb et al., Chapter 18
Nov 18	Disability	Grabb et al., Chapter 19 Bresge, "'Do our lives count for less?': Coronavirus shows gaps in Canada's disability aid, experts say" Neilson, "Why I won't see you on the barricades: Disability and COVID-19"
Nov 22	Region	Grabb et al., Chapter 20
Nov 25	Health	Grabb et al., Chapter 21

Date	Topic	Readings
Nov 29	The Future of Inequality in Canada	Peters, "Inequality" Day, "You don't want Hygge. You want social democracy"
Dec 2	Film: 63 Up	No readings
Dec 6	Film: 63 Up	No readings

Final Paper Due



Additional Information

Drop Date

Students may drop this course, online in Banner, on or before **November 3, 2021**.

COVID-19

The 2021–2022 academic year is taking place during an exceptional period of human history. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we may have to adjust the course assessment plan and/or delivery method with little or no notice. You may also have to stay home from class for various reasons related to COVID-19 (such as simply feeling ill). If this happens to you, please contact me so that we can discuss an alternative to your attendance grade for that class. Lastly, it is important that you take care of yourself by getting adequate amounts of sleep, and by taking appropriate mental health breaks. The university website on COVID-19 provides more information and links (<https://www.stfx.ca/coronavirus>).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As this course involves the production of written work, you should familiarize yourself with the standards for proper referencing of all cited materials, such as books, journal articles, newspaper articles, websites, and so on. For help with citation styles, I recommend visiting the Student Success Centre (<https://www.mystfx.ca/student-success/style-guides>).

Students that attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 of the academic calendar, found at: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/registrar-office/academic-calendars>). Resources for avoiding plagiarism can be found on the library website (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/library/plagiarism>).

Writing Assistance

Despite the fact that this is a writing-intensive course, we will not be able to spend much time on the craft of writing. If you need assistance with your writing, I recommend booking an appointment with me or visiting the Student Success Centre (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/student-success/>).

Accommodations

If you have an injury, develop an illness, or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in this course, please email me as soon as you are able. This will ensure that we find a way for you to complete the course. The Health and Counselling Centre is another resource available to you (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/health-and-counselling/>).

If you have any disabilities that require an accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, please speak to me as soon as possible so we can implement those accommodations. You may also want to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/tramble-centre-accessible-learning>).

Equity and Discrimination

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/equity/policies>). Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair of our Department, or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor (Megan Fogarty, mfogarty@stfx.ca).

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Grade Scale

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			