



Social Inequalities

Class Location: Online via WebEX and Canvas

Class time: Wednesdays 6-7:30 PM

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: HH 204b or via WebEx

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact: roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu

Course Description: This course examines social inequality and categories of difference from a sociological perspective. Students will interrogate social difference and stratification on the basis of race/ethnicity, class, gender, religion, and sexuality by examining how these categories are constructed, institutionalized, and experienced. This course will also focus on economic and labor-based inequality through the lens of contemporary global processes.

Course objectives:

- Students will gain social, cultural, and global perspectives in thinking about human difference and inequalities.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills by using theory to draw connections between domestic and international social inequalities.
- Students will be able to place contemporary patterns of social inequality in a historical context.
- By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to identify mechanisms and processes in contemporary life that contribute to patterns of inequality both across the U.S. and between the U.S. and other countries.

Mode of instruction and course access: This course is 51% lecture and 49% asynchronous online. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays and conduct our business using the A&M-Central Texas **CANVAS** Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find much of the information related to this course, including discussions, quizzes, and exams. Monitor CANVAS for announcements every weekday, not just on the days things are due/assigned.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19

should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

- **Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus.** This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
- **Physical Distancing—**Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- **Classroom Ingress/Egress—**Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#)

[<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Contacting your professor:

The **best way to contact me is through email** (roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 7 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. I am on campus during my office hours should you need to talk to me in person.

The best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as "Professor Schoen" or "Dr. Schoen," pronounced *SHANE*.

Required reading materials:

Froyum, Carissa, Katrina Bloch, and Tiffany Taylor 2017. *Creating and Contesting Social Inequalities*. Oxford University Press.

Kathryn Edin and Luke Shaefer 2016. *\$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. Mariner Books.

Andrew Brooks. 2019. *Clothing Poverty: The Hidden World of Fast Fashion and Second-Hand Clothes*, 2nd Edition. University of Chicago Press.

Other required reading materials will be available on Canvas or through the course E-Reserve page. E-Res Password: *unequal*

Course requirements:

Below is a description of the five main activities for this hybrid course. They include (1) reading assignments, (2) mini essays, (3) participation on the course discussion boards, (4) taking online quizzes, and (5) one final exam.

You will notice that most of your grade is based on weekly work, which means it is imperative that you keep up with readings and weekly assignments. Students who ignore the weekly assignments and attempt to "catch up" later in the semester have a very difficult time passing the course.

1. **Reading assignments and other materials:** Readings for the course are listed in the schedule below. Students should complete as much of the readings as possible before coming to class on Tuesdays. Complete all weekly readings before attempting to complete any assignment, including discussion boards. **Additional readings will be available online in the course E-Reserves folder.** E-Reserve readings are marked on the course schedule as "eRes" readings and are just as important as the readings from your book. ****Our E-Reserve password is: unequal** (all lower case)

I may also provide you with links to news articles or video clips in the weekly modules. Please be sure to look at all the supplemental items I post, as they are a part of our learning materials for the course. Quizzes and exams may

include questions on any of the readings, supplemental videos, and news articles.

2. **Mini essays:** Instead of a major term paper, students will compose three mini essays that reflect on a weekly topic. These essays will be private (i.e. can only be viewed by the student and instructor) and are your chance to analyze and reflect on the readings for the week. **Essays should be 600-900 words** and should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have engaged in thoughtful consideration of the facts and themes contained within. These essays do not need a title page. They should be single spaced, 12-point font, with a *reference list and in-text citations*. Students should use ASA or APA style. **Mini essays are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM CST.**
3. **Discussion Boards:** Students will participate on our course discussion board, with graded discussion taking place during 5 of the 16 weeks this semester. Your primary/initial postings will address my weekly discussion question(s) and should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday**. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers' primary posts. Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday. Late posts will not receive credit.**

****Please see the detailed instructions for discussion boards posted to Canvas.**
4. **Quizzes:** Students will take 5 quizzes at regular intervals throughout the course. Quizzes will cover the readings and other material assigned for the same week. On weeks when you have a quiz, you should first complete the readings and take notes. Prepare and manage your time wisely; you will not be able to re-take a quiz, nor can you re-open a quiz once you have started it. Quizzes will be **available from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. There are no makeup quizzes.** The Sunday night deadline is final.
5. **Exams:** There will be one midterm and one final exam this semester. These cover readings, discussion boards, and any other supplemental material we engaged with. The format will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short essay questions. Exam will be available for a few days during the weeks they are due (see course schedule below). **You will only be able to open and take an exam one time. If you have technical problems during an exam, please email me immediately so I can try to resolve the problem.**

Posting of Grades:

- All student grades will be posted using the CANVAS grade book and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.

- Grades will usually be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments could require more time to read through and give individualized feedback. For such assessments, you may need to be patient.

Assignment	Points
Discussion board participation (5 @ 20 points)	100
Mini essays (2 @ 75 points)	150
Quizzes 5 @ 10	50
Midterm exam	100
Final exam	100
Total:	500

Points	Percentage	Grade
446 - 500	90 – 100%	A
396 - 445	80 - 89%	B
346 - 395	70 – 79%	C
296 - 345	60 – 69%	D
295 or below	0 – 59%	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953. For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

Dr. Schoen does not like to use the remote proctored testing service. HOWEVER, should academic dishonesty or sharing of quiz questions become an issue in our course, then she may decide to include this feature for the remaining quizzes and tests. A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or

headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.
Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Numbered chapters are from your course reader, *Creating and Contesting Social Inequalities*. Readings not in your book are labeled “eRes.” These reading assignments are available on the course E-Reserves (eRes) page. (eRes password: unequal)

Week 1.

Topics	Read	Complete
Course orientation	Syllabus ...yes, the syllabus will be included on quiz 1	Discussion board 1
How Inequality Came to Be	Readings in book: Introduction (p.1-4), Readings 1 (by Schwalbe) and 2 (by Russell)	

Week 2.

Topics	Read	Complete
Stratification and Poverty	eRes: What is Critical Thinking? Why Does it Matter?, Chatfield eRes: Your Brain on Poverty, D. Thompson eRes: One Nation on Welfare, Grunwald	Quiz 1

Week 3.

Topics	Read	Complete
Race and Ethnicity	eRes: “Constructing Ethnicity” by J. Nagel Readings 11, 14, 16	Discussion board 2

Week 4.

Topics	Read	Complete
Gender and Sexualities	eRes: “The Social Construction of Gender” by J. Lorber Readings 4, 12, 23	Quiz 2

Week 5.

Topics	Read	Complete
Exploitation and Exclusion	Readings 6, 18, 20, 21 Introduction to <i>\$2.00 A Day</i>	Quiz 3

Week 6.

Topics	Read	Complete
Institutional Inequality	Readings 26, 33 Chapters 1 and 2 in <i>\$2.00 A Day</i>	Discussion board 3

Week 7.

Topics	Read	Complete
Why is Social Mobility so Difficult?	Readings 28, 30 Chapters 3 and 4 in <i>\$2.00 A Day</i>	eRes: Watch the film <i>Waging A Living</i>

Week 8.

Topics	Read	Complete
Social Mobility and Social Policy	Chapter 5 and Conclusion to <i>\$2.00 A Day</i>	Midterm exam - over weeks 1-8 materials only

Week 9.

Topics	Read	Complete
Globalization I	eRes: Chapter 1 of "Planet of Slums" by Mike Davis Reading 17	Mini essay 1

Week 10.

Topics	Read	Complete
Globalization II	Reading 19 <i>Clothing Poverty</i> intro and chapter 1	Discussion board 4

Week 11.

Topics	Read	Complete
Globalization III	<i>Clothing Poverty</i> chapters 2, 3, and 4	Quiz 4

Week 12.

Topics	Read	Complete
Global Production and Inequality I	<i>Clothing Poverty</i> chapters 5 & 6	eRes: Watch film <i>China Blue</i>

Week 13.

Topics	Read	Complete
Global Production and Inequality II	Reading 29 <i>Clothing Poverty</i> chapters 7 & 8	Quiz 5

Week 14.

Topics	Read	Complete
Ethical Consumerism?	<i>Clothing Poverty</i> chapter 9 eRes: "Women and Rural Industrialization" by R. Schoen	Discussion board 5

Week 15.

Topics	Read	Complete
Now what?	<i>Clothing Poverty</i> chapter 10 Reading 25	Mini essay 2

Week 16.

Topics	Read	Complete
Final Exam Week	No new readings. Final exam will open on Wednesday. You must complete the exam once you open it.	Final exam – over weeks 9-15 materials only

Other university dates and deadlines:

February 3, 2021	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
February 26, 2021	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
March 15-19, 2021	Spring Break (University Closed)
May 15, 2021	Spring Commencement Ceremony at 7 PM (tentative)
May 18, 2021	Final grades submitted by this day

For all university dates, see: [TAMUCT Academic Calendar](#)

COURSE POLICIES

Make-up and late policies

This is an online hybrid course. You are responsible for managing your time to make sure you complete all assignments on time. In the event that a student experiences an illness, injury, or other emergency that causes them to miss a discussion board or quiz, the student has the right to an alternative assignment to make up missed points.

The instructor will choose the alternative assignment. In this case, the student must provide official documentation that includes their name and the dates of the illness or emergency (e.g. doctor's note, police report).

A student may only make up an **exam** if there is illness, injury, or another *documented* excuse. If a student misses an exam due to illness, injury, something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, etc), 2. Notify Dr. Schoen as soon as possible of intent to take a make-up exam, and 3. Prepare to take the make-up exam within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero for that exam. If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade.

Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism on any assignment (discussion boards, quizzes, journals, etc) will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are confused, please ask me.

If an assignment is found to be plagiarized, the student will receive a zero for that assignment and a referral to Student Affairs.

If the plagiarism is egregious, the student will receive an F for the course. See also: section below on Academic Integrity.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request Dynamic Form](#) through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If

you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

*Please note that accommodations are not retroactive so if you need Dr. Schoen to accommodate you, please contact Dr. Normal as soon as possible. Your professor cannot adjust your grades based on an accommodation letter produced at the end of the semester.

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research

sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

Copyright Notice.

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