Instructor: Michael D. Royster, M.Div, M.A.  
Office Location: W.R. Banks 234  
Office Phone: (936) 261-3221  
Office Fax: (936) 261-3229  
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed 2-4pm, TR & Sat by appointment  
Email: mdroyster@pvamu.edu  
Course Location: WOOL 203  
Class Meeting Days and Times: Sat 11am-150pm  

COURSE GOAL: This graduate course is designed to prepare students for advanced analysis of sociological theoretical perspectives as they relate to social stratification systems within society.

This course is reading intensive.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Analysis of the nature of social stratification and its relation to other aspects of society: distribution of influence and wealth occupational structural, family relations, religious and educational institutions, minority problems, and cultural patterns; Comparison between open class, caste and other arrangements; Sources of mobility and change in stratification systems. Also addresses the impact of different forms of ranking and the consequent inequalities that arise.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:  
Kerbo, Social Stratification and Inequality, 7th ed.  
C. Wright Mills, The Power Elite  
Thorstein Veblen, Theory of the Leisure Class

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:  
Students are responsible for all examinations as well as written assignments. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings. Required reading assignments include the assigned textbook pages and articles. Any student who completes the entire semester with zero absences and fewer than three tardies will receive a bonus of 30 points towards their total points, which implies that 3 points will be added to the end of the course average.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of Seminar in Race Relations a student should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aligns with . . .</th>
<th>SOCG Program Goal</th>
<th>Core Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students will identify appropriate methods, technology, and data that social and behavioral scientist use to investigate social inequality.</td>
<td>Teach 1, 3 and 4</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Students will be able to examine social institutions and processes that create and maintain across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.</td>
<td>Teach and Reinforce 1, 3, and 4</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Students develop an understanding of theories used to explain social inequality in the United States.</td>
<td>Teach 1 &amp; 3 Reinforce 4 and Integrate 2</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ability to recognize processes of social stratification that lead to inequality: historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces.</td>
<td>Teach and Reinforce 1, 3 &amp; 4; integrate 2</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions to contemporary social stratification.</td>
<td>Teach and Reinforce 1, 3 &amp; 4; integrate 2</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the Sociology Program, graduate students will be able to:
1) understand the historical development of sociology and apply contemporary sociological theory to social phenomenon
2) apply research and statistical methods
3) apply sociological concepts and theoretical perspectives to contemporary social problems
4) demonstrate knowledge of cultural diversity

CRITERIA FOR GRADING:
Your final grade is a result of all coursework. Grades will be assigned as follows:

Midterm Exam (100 points)
Final Exam (100 points)
Theoretical Research Paper (200 points)
Attendance/Active Participation Percentage (100 points)
Total: (500 points)

A [89.5-100%] = 448-500 points
B [79.5-89.5) = 398-447 points
C [69.5-79.5%) = 348-397 points
D [59.5-69.5%) = 298-347 points
F [0-59.5%) =0-297 points

ACCESS TO LEARNING RESOURCES:
PVAMU Library: Phone: (936)261-1500; web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/
University Bookstore: Phone: (936)261-1990;
web: http://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:
Should you decide to drop this course at any time, you must take the initiative yourself. Failure to drop a course because of not passing or excessive absences will result in an “F” grade at the end of the semester. To receive a grade of “W” you must drop the class by April 5.

ADA STATEMENT:
Prairie View A&M University and the TAMU System are dedicated to providing the least restrictive learning environment for all students. PVAMU promotes equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which will enable students with disabilities to benefit from post-secondary educational programs, courses and activities.

If you require reasonable accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please notify the instructor before the end of the first two weeks of class to arrange for reasonable accommodations or register with the Office of Disability Services, Evans 317, ph. 936-261-3581.
University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.
OTHER POLICIES:

PVAMU is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, or collusion on a paper is a violation of academic integrity. Cheating includes looking at copying from another student’s exam. Plagiarism includes submitting a paper report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently.

Where there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, disciplinary action will be taken including, but not limited to: assigning a grade of zero for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of “F” for the course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program, or expelled from school may be imposed on a student who violates the standards of academic integrity.

Law strictly forbids unauthorized copying of software purchased by PVAMU for use in Laboratories. PVAMU administration will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone violating copyright laws.

Food and tobacco products are not allowed in the classroom. Appropriate dress is required. Cellular phones and pagers must be turned OFF, not on vibrate before entering the classroom. Students must seek prior authorization from the instructor for the use of electronic devices such as laptops, blackberries, or similar devices. Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. All written work submitted must be typed and single spaced (single spaced preferred), with one inch margins, and fonts at twelve. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, your paper must be present in order for you to receive credit for the assignment. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of deduction of half of the points, and will not be accepted beyond the next class meeting. If a student is absent for an exam, the student will take a comprehensive make-up exam covering all materials throughout the course during thirty minutes of my office hour prior to the final exam. Only one make-up exam is allowed. Therefore it is the student’s responsibility to be present when exams are given.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2010 SEMESTER

- **General Student Assembly with Pres. Wright**, Thursday, January 28 in the “Baby Dome.” Classes dismissed at 9:30 am, classes resume at 12:00 pm.
- **Last day to drop course(s) without record**, Wednesday, February 3.
- **Courses dropped for nonpayment**, Wednesday, February 3.
- **Mid-semester grades due**, Tuesday, March 16.
- **Graduation application deadline for Fall 2009**, Friday, March 26.
- **Late Graduation Application Deadline Period for Fall 2009**, Mon. – Sat., Mar 29 – Apr 3.
- **Last day to withdraw from courses with an automatic “W” ends April 5.**
- **Priority registration begins for Summer and Fall 2010**, Tuesday, April 13.
- **Last Day to Withdraw from the University (from all courses)**, Tuesday, May 4.
- **Final grades due for graduating candidates**, Wednesday, May 12.
- **Commencement**, Saturday, May 15.
- **Final grades due for all students**, Tuesday, May 18.
College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student & Staff Aspiration Statement

The faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences at PVAMU are committed to providing the best possible quality education to its students. To that end, we will work hard to prepare the students for success by setting the proper academic environment and background necessary to facilitate learning. In order for us to be successful, there are some basic expectations our students must demonstrate. These expectations are a simple ingredient to foster camaraderie and ‘esprit de corps’ in every class and classroom on campus. Additionally, these are lifelong fundamental learning skills to better prepare students for success in America’s job market.

CAS student expectations:

- You are expected to come to class prepared and on time.
- Higher education is an investment in your future, to that end; you must endeavor to be properly equipped for class. (i.e. School supplies, text, and other supporting materials).
- Resolution of any classroom issues (i.e. Grades, course materials, etc) should begin with the instructor.
- If you must leave early, notify the instructor before the class begins, sit by the door, and exit quietly.
- Be considerate of your fellow classmates; please turn off all phones, pagers and other electronic devices.
- Do not talk to other students during lecture. If you have a question or a comment on the subject being discussed, address it to the instructor directly.
- Walk quietly through the hallways, classes in other rooms may still be in session.
- Please refrain from eating, drinking, sleeping in class, using profanity, and engaging in any form of horseplay in the classroom it is disruptive to your fellow classmates.
- Be respectful, civil, polite and considerate when dealing with you professors as well as your fellow classmates.
- Student attire is based on personal preference and taste. The rule of thumb is simple, if it projects a statement which is offensive to others, then maturity should dictate that it is probably not a good idea to wear in class.
- Enthusiasm is infectious, a smile and positive attitude will go far to motivate and charge your professors and fellow classmates.

Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:
- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- 56K modem or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM
- 64MB RAM
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins
- Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
  - Sending and receiving email
  - A working knowledge of the Internet
  - Proficiency in Microsoft Word
  - Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
  - Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette): students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.
Technical Support: Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

Communication Expectations and Standards: All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following my receipt of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

Submission of Assignments: Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will distributed and submitted through your online course. Directions for accessing your online course will be provided. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

Discussion Requirement: Because this is an online course, there will be no required face to face meetings on campus. However, we will participate in conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course in a true seminar fashion. We will accomplish this by use of the discussion board.

Students are required to log-on to the course website often to participate in discussion. It is strongly advised that you check the discussion area daily to keep abreast of discussions. When a topic is posted, everyone is required to participate. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.

TENTATIVE SOCIOLOGY COURSE OUTLINE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Concentrated Wealth and Power</td>
<td>Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Concentrated Wealth and Power</td>
<td>Mills (cont’d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Concentrated Wealth and Power</td>
<td>Mills (cont’d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Concentrated Wealth and Power</td>
<td>Mills (cont’d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Theory of the Leisure Class</td>
<td>Veblen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Theory of the Leisure Class</td>
<td>Veblen (cont’d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Theory of the Leisure Class</td>
<td>Veblen (cont’d) MID TERM EXAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Theory of the Leisure Class</td>
<td>Veblen (cont’d),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Slavery, Caste, and Apartheid</td>
<td>Kerbo TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>Slavery, Caste, and Apartheid</td>
<td>Kerbo TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 6</td>
<td>Ideologies</td>
<td>Kerbo TBD; last day to withdraw 4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>Ideologies</td>
<td>Kerbo TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 20</td>
<td>Protest and Social Change</td>
<td>Kerbo TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>Protest and Social Change</td>
<td>Kerbo TBD TAKE HOME EXAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Exam Schedule TBA

The instructor has the right and authority to make necessary amendments to this document upon discretion.
– M. D. Royster