Description
The main classical and modern explanations of the causes of social, economic and political inequality. Key issues: the consequences of inequality for individuals and groups; the relative importance of economic, political and social forces in creating and sustaining inequality; class consciousness; the significance of race, ethnicity and gender; and the use of social policy to mitigate inequality. Cases range from technologically simple tribes, the Indian caste system, and the U.S. in modern times.

Readings
Three required books -- *Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-wage Work*, *Falling from Grace: Downward Mobility in the Age of Affluence*, and *Race in the Schoolyard* -- are available for purchase at the Stanford Bookstore and on reserve at Green Library. Additional required and recommended readings are available on electronic reserve, either on the Coursework website or at other locations as noted in the syllabus.

Requirements
Students taking the course for undergraduate credit are responsible for informed and engaged class participation, a take-home midterm, an in-class final exam covering lectures and required readings, and timely, engaged completion of four response papers. Students taking the course for graduate credit are responsible for informed, engaged class participation, a take-home midterm, an in-class final exam covering lectures and recommended as well as required readings, and timely, engaged completion of five response papers.

Class participation: 20%
Take-home midterm: 25%
In-class final exam: 30%
Response papers: 25%

Class participation. Your class participation grade is based largely upon your participation in required discussion sections. In addition, each week on Thursday, you will submit a discussion question crafted to that week’s readings. Your question should lead to a synthesis and/or evaluation of at least three of the week’s assigned readings. Full credit will be given to questions that sincerely engage with the assignment. This question is due via e-mail prior to class meeting time on Thursday or in hard copy at the beginning of Thursday’s class. Late questions will not be accepted under any circumstances; the flexible extension may not be used for this assignment.
**Response papers.** Each week, I will post a small selection of discussion questions collected from those submitted by students. For a response paper, you will select one of the questions and write an answer that is two to three double-spaced pages in length. You may write for any weeks you wish, but you may only write one response paper for any given week. Students taking the course for graduate credit will write five response papers over the course of the quarter; students taking the course for undergraduate credit will write four. Successful response papers will engage sincerely with the question and show knowledge of the readings. Papers for a given week are due the following Thursday at 5pm.

**Policies**

**Late work**
Due dates are selected with care and serve two purposes: (1) to help you pace your own work; and, (2) to ensure that all students are “on the same page” and able to participate effectively in class. When you are late with your work, it affects not only your own apprehension of the material, but also what others can learn from you. Accordingly, late work is penalized in the following way: for each day (up to 24 hours) work is late, your class participation grade *for the quarter* is reduced by a transcript grade (e.g., an A becomes an A-, a B+ becomes a B, etc.). Each student has up to 48 hours of “flex time” that may be used for extensions with no penalty, no questions asked, and no explanations required. You may use the whole extension on a single assignment, or divide it up across assignments. The extension may be used for the take-home midterm and the response papers, but may not be used for the discussion questions or the final exam. Once you have used your 48 hours, no further extensions will be granted. Use the extension wisely: only if you truly need it.

Physical or mental conditions that interfere with your ability to complete coursework as scheduled in a syllabus constitute circumstances in which you should consult the Disability Resource Center.

**Accommodations, Auxiliary Aides and Services**
If you know or are concerned that you may have a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) ([http://www.stanford.edu/group/DRC/](http://www.stanford.edu/group/DRC/), info@drc.stanford.edu). The DRC can provide a variety of resources to aid instruction, and will work with the instructor and the student to arrange suitable accommodation. If you require accommodation, it is your responsibility to contact the DRC, who will keep the details of your circumstances in confidence and will work with you and your instructors to arrange suitable accommodation.

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** is available to help students who experience a wide variety of personal, academic and relationship concerns. **Contact (650) 723-3785 (24 hours a day).**

**Contacting the instructor**
I hold drop-in office hours on **Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in Room 224, Building 120.** I am also available by appointment. The best way to contact me is *always* e-mail, at [sandefur@stanford.edu](mailto:sandefur@stanford.edu), but you can also call my office phone at 724-6252.
Schedule of Readings and Other Assignments

INTRODUCTION
Tuesday, March 29th

POWER
Thursday, March 31st:


Tuesday, April 5th:


Thursday, April 7th:
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28194504%2910%3A2%3C242%3ASPOS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-A

Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28195308%2918%3A4%3C387%3ASPOSAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-3

**CLASS**

**Tuesday, April 12**: 
Stable URL: [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28198212%2947%3A6%3C709%3ATACS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28198212%2947%3A6%3C709%3ATACS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J)


**Thursday, April 14**: 


**GENDER**

**Tuesday, April 19**: 


Thursday, April 21th:

http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199411%29100%3A3%3C652%3AEDGATD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-E

Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199704%2962%3A2%3C218%3AIATCOG%3E2.0.CO%3B2-B

**RACE AND ETHNICITY**
Tuesday, April 26th:


Thursday, April 28th:
http://books.nap.edu/books/030906838X/html/21.html#pagetop

http://books.nap.edu/books/030906838X/html/264.html#pagetop

**INCOME INEQUALITY**
Tuesday, May 3rd:

LABOR MARKETS
Thursday, May 5th:


Friday, May 6th, 5 p.m.
TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAMINATION DUE in hard copy.

SCHOOL AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
Tuesday, May 10th:


Thursday, May 12th:
Required:


SOCIAL MOBILITY
Tuesday, May 17th:

Thursday, May 19th:


PERCEPTION AND LEGITIMATION OF INEQUALITY
Tuesday, May 24th:

Thursday, May 26th:


CONCLUDING DISCUSSION
Tuesday, May 31st

FINAL EXAM
Monday, June 6th, 7 – 10 p.m.