This course analyzes patterns of social organization and change in a variety of different arenas of social and institutional life: work, family, gender, community, poverty, wealth, race, environment, social movements, politics, organizations. It focuses on the contemporary United States, though it also examines longer patterns. Broad normative questions of democracy and equality run throughout all topics.

**ABSOLUTELY NO USE OF LAPTOPS OR CELL PHONES DURING CLASS**

All cellphones and laptops will be shut off and stored out of sight. Get a paper notebook for note taking, if you do not typically utilize one. (I will make an exception only if there is a dire emergency, such as a family member in surgery. You must inform me of such an emergency ahead of class.)

The required reading will be discussed most intensively in your discussion sections, and everyone is required to attend these and do all of the readings beforehand. Assigned sections will be developed within the first 2 weeks or so of the course.

Two sets of take-home essays, plus participation in section, will determine final grades. ALL essays are due in hardcopy, stapled, paginated, double-spaced, 12-point or so font.

1. **Midterm** take home essays, 2 essays, 10 pages total: DUE March 3 (35 percent of grade).

2. **Final** take home essays, 3 essays, 15 pages total: DUE April 28 (50 percent of grade).

3. **Participation/preparation** in section: 15 percent of grade.

4. **Service Learning Option:** Students engaged in community service, social action, or campus leadership projects may opt to write one of their essays for the final on their experiences. This may require supplemental reading appropriate to the nature of the student’s active engagement. Students wishing to choose this option should discuss it with their TAs and/or the instructor as early in the semester as possible, present a short written proposal (1 page), and must receive formal approval by Feb 3.
Disabled students requiring specific arrangements in completing course work should see their TA and/or instructor.

**Required readings:** at Bookstore, on reserve, or on LATTE

Required books:


**January 13: Introduction:** Overview of course topics, readings, assignments.

**January 15-30: Family, Gender, and Work**


Reading:


**Feb 3-13: The Changing Nature of Work: From Industrial to Postindustrial Society**

The organization and meaning of work; scientific management and industrial work; recognition and power in service workplaces, gender, race; postindustrialism and information technologies.

Readings:

Deborah Osnowitz, Freelancing Expertise: Contract Professionals in the New Economy (Cornell UP 2010), chapter 5 (“Collegial Networking, Occupational Control”), pages 120-44.

February 17-20: Winter Break, no classes

February 24-27: Racial Inequality: Income and Wealth

What are the dynamics of race, wealth, and income in the U.S., and what might these entail for public policy? What have been the effects of the financial crisis on equality and strategies for equity?

Readings:

Shapiro, The Hidden Cost of Being African American.

March 3: Midterm essays due in class: 10 pages, double-spaced, paginated, stapled

March 3-13: Community and Urban Politics: Religion, Race, Immigrants

How do people act through religious congregations and civic associations to build social capital, enhance power, revitalize their communities, incorporate recent immigrants?

Readings:

Irene Bloemraad, Becoming A Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada (University Of California Press 2006), Chapter 5.

March 17-27: Climate Change and Environmental Movements

The emergence and development of a multi-dimensional climate movement, comprised of contentious as well as collaborative politics. Challenges for civil society, government, markets. The institutional field of environmentalism.

Readings:


March 31-April 3: Political Sociology and Polarized Politics

Power and politics in society; how can we understand recent conservative movements and the polarized turn in American politics? The Tea Party.

Readings:


April 7-14: Bureaucracy and Beyond?

Why has bureaucracy been such a powerful force in society and economy? What happens in the ideal type, as well as in street-level practice? In what ways is bureaucracy being reinvented and transformed?


April 15-22: Spring Break (no classes)

April 23-24: Review

April 28: Final papers due in class: 10-pages, double-spaced, paginated, stapled