Renison University College Land Acknowledgement
With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Term: Fall, 2019
Course Code: SDS312R Lec 001
Course Title: Social Inequality, Social Justice & Public Policy

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.
Class Location: REN Room 0403
Instructor: Dr. Tracy Peressini; preferred form of address is Dr. Peressini.
TA: Finesa (fdragusha@edu.uwaterloo.ca), Sarah (Sarah.Bryson@edu.uwaterloo.ca) & Kurtis (kc3wilso@uwaterloo.ca)
Office: Rm. 1622, Founders Building
Office Phone: 519-888-4567, ext. 28602
Office Hours: Monday, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.
Email: Dr. Peressini – tperessini@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description
In a world of plenty, why does inequality persist? Why do the rich get richer and the poorer get poorer? In this course we examine the hidden causes of inequality and the social injustices associated with them. This course will explore the social structures & processes attendant to modern society, as well as the scientific evidence that ties them to both persistent inequality and injustice. This course will review the major types of inequality plaguing human society today, as well as the social and public policy responses to them.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to ...
1. Define the key concepts associated with social stratification, inequality and justice;
2. Describe the classical and contemporary theories & systems of social stratification and their products;
3. Understand and explain theories of social exclusion and human rights;
4. Identify the key consequences of social inequality;
5. Outline the relationship between social inequality, social movements and social justice;
6. Describe the notion of the “fair society” and on what basis it could/should be constructed;
7. Discuss the logic of social action, social change and participatory practice
Required Text

Recommended Texts

Course Requirements and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assignment Due Date</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Inequality Report &amp; Reflection</td>
<td>Oct 2^{nd}</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>Oct 21^{st}</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>Nov 13^{th}</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>Nov 18^{th} – Dec 2^{nd}</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>GP – Mandatory Attendance (2%/day)</td>
<td>Nov 18^{th} – Dec 2^{nd}</td>
<td>2%×5 = 10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 100%

Online Information
The class website on LEARN will be used for a variety of purposes including access to class resources (e.g., syllabus, lecture slides), drop boxes for submitting assignments, course grades, and class announcements. It will be your responsibility to check this website regularly: LEARN. All course work must be uploaded to the appropriate drop box on LEARN.

Lecture slides will be posted after class, on the day it is presented. I strongly recommend that you take your own notes as much as possible, as research shows that people have greater memory for the material when they take their own notes. To succeed, you should attend all lectures. I will present a great deal of material not covered in your textbook and expand on important points in the text in the lectures. Therefore, it is in your interest to attend class.

Inequality Report & Reflection Due Date: Oct 2^{nd} Weight: 15%
This assignment requires you to first read and write a brief summary of Savage Inequalities: Children in America’s Schools. Second, you will read The Social Justice Warrior Handbook and identify why type of SJW you are? Finally, you will use your knowledge about what type of SJW you are and use it to describe how you solve the problem(s) of educational injustice, as described in Kozol’s book. As you read the texts, reflect on things like: why is educational equality important? Why issues do impoverished children and youth face in the
American/Canadian educational system? How would you address these problems (e.g. programs, services, policies)? Finally, as a bona-fide SJW, describe what actions you would take to address the issue of educational inequality? Your review & reflection should be 5-7 pages (not including the references/bibliography) in length (.5% reduction for every ½ page over 7 pages), 11 or 12 pitch font, preferably Arial or Times New Roman. Your margins should be 1” on both sides and at the top and bottom of your essay. Your submission should take the standard form of an essay with an introduction, body and conclusion. Please use APA citation & referencing styles. You must upload your paper to LEARN by 12:50 pm Oct 2nd. All assignments must be uploaded to LEARN; no hard copies will be accepted. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. If you want to submit your paper after 12:50 pm on Oct 2nd, you must contact me and I will arrange for you to upload your paper to LEARN for a late penalty of 5% per day up to 10 days after the due date, after which your paper will no longer be accepted. Please note, grading inquiries will not be responded to.

Group Presentations  Due Date: Nov 18th – Dec 2nd  Weight: 25%

The intent of this assignment is to provide students the opportunity to work collaboratively to investigate and analyse an issue related to poverty in order to demonstrate your understanding of poverty and the complex and interconnected causes of poverty and its consequences. You will be matched up with two other group mates on Sept 18th and your group will select a topic for your presentation. Presentations should be no more than 25-30 minutes. You should summarize the current knowledge about your topic and present it in an appealing, easy to follow way. Each group member must contribute to the presentation. Given the limited amount of time to do your presentation, you must make sure your presentation is focussed and honed on a specific topic. The type of knowledge and information should consist of the following topics: topic, definition of poverty as it applies to your topic, current findings/information on the topic (you must do library research for this part), briefly present theories and/or explanations related to your topic and your conclusions with regard to your topic, as well as any related policies or programs designed to address your specific topic. The presentations are limited to weeks 9 and 10, so time is extremely limited, make sure you use it well. Your presentation will be evaluated based on the quality of your presentation and the type(s) of knowledge you summarize in your presentation. Finally, each member of the group must hand in their Group Experience Report before they will be assigned a grade for the presentation. Failure to submit a report will result in a grade of 0 on the presentation. Based on your report, I may request a meeting with each member of the group to get further details. The form for the report will be handed out in class.

Each Group must upload a copy of their presentation to the drop box before the class they are presenting in and must hand in a copy of the presentation references on a separate page (this can be included in the drop-box, or handed to the instructor on the day of the presentation).

Tests: Test 1 October 21st (Weight 25%) & Test 2 November 13th (Weight 25%)

There will be 2 tests in this course. Both tests will be a combination of mix and match questions, fill in the blanks and short answer questions based on all of the material covered in the course. The test 1 on October 21st will cover course lectures, readings and any additional materials handed out in class up to and including October 9th. Test 2 on November 13th will cover all course lectures and readings and additional materials for the whole term.

Mandatory Attendance: November 18th – Dec 2nd  Weight 10%

Attendance will be taken during class for the group presentations, November 18th – Dec 2nd, 5 lectures @ 2%/lecture. It will be taken twice per session at random points in each lecture in order to ensure compliance
with this policy. If you are there for the first and not the second tally (and vice versa) you will receive a 0 for attendance on that day.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings - Sharma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 4th</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Overview of the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 9th – 11th</td>
<td>Social Structures &amp; Social Inequality</td>
<td>Brodie, Ch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 16th – 18th</td>
<td>Forms &amp; Functions of Inequality – Part 1</td>
<td>Hurst, Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 23rd – 30th</td>
<td>Forms &amp; Functions of Inequality – Part 2</td>
<td>Hurst, Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>October 2nd – 9th</td>
<td>The Social Construction of Inequality</td>
<td>Brodie: Ch 2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>**</td>
<td>October 14th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day – No classes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 15th – 18th</td>
<td>Fall Reading Week – No classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 23rd – 28th</td>
<td>The Building Blocks of Inequality</td>
<td>Brodie: Part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 6th</td>
<td>Equality/Equity Seeking Social Movements</td>
<td>Brodie: Part 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 11th</td>
<td>Social Justice and Public Policy</td>
<td>t.b.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 13th</td>
<td>Test 1 (Weight 25%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 18th – Dec 2nd</td>
<td>Group Presentations/Attendance Mandatory</td>
<td>Note: December 2nd is a make-up day for Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 18th – Dec 2nd</td>
<td>Group Presentations/Attendance Mandatory</td>
<td>Note: December 2nd is a make-up day for Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 3rd</td>
<td>Last Day of Lectures – No Class</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Late Work
Due dates are firm. You are responsible for informing the instructor in advance if you are unable to complete an assignment by the scheduled date. Missed due dates are only acceptable in the case of medical problems (with a UW Verification of Illness Form completed by your doctor), for serious compassionate reasons, or as a pre-arranged accommodation for students with disabilities. Late submissions, without advance permission, will be given a 5% reduction in the total possible grade for each 24 hours after the due date. No assignments will be accepted if submitted more than one week after the deadline.

Electronic Device Policy
Please note that you are permitted to use computers/notebooks during class solely for the purposes of taking notes of course material and completing course assignments. Any other use (e.g. social media) is a distraction to your fellow students and may result in you being asked to leave the classroom.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be prepared for discussion.
**Grading:** The course assessments will be reviewed and relevant documentation (e.g. rubrics) will be handed out and discussed in class. A grading rubric will be used to evaluate each assignment. Assignments will be graded once all the submissions are in. Inquiries regarding when the graded assignments will be returned will not be responded to or answered.

**Unclaimed Student Submissions:** In accordance with UW policy, student assignments, papers, quizzes & exams will be stored for 1 year from the start of the course, after which the material(s) in question will be securely destroyed.

**Posting of Final Grades at Renison College**
It is Renison College policy NOT to post grades at any time or report grades via phone or email.

**Final Examination Policy**
For Fall 2019, the established examination period is December 6-21, 2019. The schedule will be available at the end of September. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see: https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations

**Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:**
The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

**Academic Integrity:**
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage (https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage (https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour) for more information.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available here: https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions
and Grievances, Section 4 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant, who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there are grounds. Students who believe they have grounds for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html
Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
Note for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities, without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AAS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Intellectual Property:
Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:
- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

Mental Health Support
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus
- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7
- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)](#)
Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

**A respectful living and learning environment for all**

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

If you experience or witness harassment or discrimination, seek help. You may contact Credence & Co., Renison’s external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officers, by email ([info@credenceandco.com](mailto:info@credenceandco.com)) or by phone (519-883-8906). Credence & Co. is an independent K-W based firm which works with organizations toward thriving workplace cultures, including professional coaching, consulting, facilitation, policy development, conflict mediation and ombudsperson functions.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.