

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
SOCI 2701: Urban Poverty
Spring Interterm

June 4, 6, 11, 13, 14, 18 (6-10pm all days except June 14th 9am-5pm)

***You must be able attend ALL class sessions INCLUDING 9am-5pm Saturday, June 14th.

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Prerequisites: None

This course is designed as a sociological analysis of urban poverty. Intersections of poverty with race, gender, education, healthcare, public policy will be analyzed through traditional and non-traditional forms of scholarship. Class members will engage in a day of service and exploration in the Denver community (Saturday, June 14th) where they will experience concepts of poverty, environmental racism, and gentrification first hand.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand a spectrum of issues related to class and poverty in the United States
2. To read classic and contemporary writing about the sociology of poverty
3. To understand the sociological connections between race and class (and other social identities of gender, age) AND to be able to distinguish them from stereotypical ideas
4. To learn about historical and contemporary public policy issues related to poverty
5. To reflect on service learning experiences and connect them to classroom concepts about poverty

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The Women's College fully endorses the University of Denver's Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research—is in violation of the code and will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures

(www.du.edu/honorcode).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (including points per requirement and total points):

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|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Class participation | 40 Points |
| 2. Papers | 40 Points |
| 3. Final Exam | 20 Points |

COURSE POLICIES:*

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY: Attendance is mandatory.

INCOMPLETE POLICY: A grade of incomplete will be granted only under special circumstances and will not be automatically granted for absenteeism.

COURSE TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

REQUIRED:

1. Eitzen, Stanley & Eitzen, Kelly, (2003). *Experiencing Poverty: Voices from the Bottom*. Belmont, CA:Wadsworth/ Thompson Learning
2. Newman, Katherine (1999) *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*. Vintage Books. Random House, NY.
3. Rank, Mark. (2004). *One Nation, Underprivileged: Why American Poverty Affects Us All*. NY: Oxford University Press.

All additional materials can be found at electronic reserves through Penrose Library

COURSE SCHEDULE**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIRST CLASS (Read)**

- E-Reserve, Gilbert, Ch 1, The Dimensions of Class
- E-Reserve, Gilbert, Ch 11, The American Class Structure and Growing Inequality
- Eitzen & Eitzen, Part One, pp.1-10 & Part 2, pp.13-38 & Living on the Economic Margins, 39-57
- Rank, Chapter 1

Session One: June 4th - 6-10p.m.***Topic: What is Social Class? Theories of Poverty***

- E-Reserve, Gilbert, Ch 1, The Dimensions of Class
- E-Reserve, Gilbert, Ch 11, The American Class Structure and Growing Inequality
- Eitzen & Eitzen, Part One, pp.1-10 & Part 2, pp.13-38 & Living on the Economic Margins, 39-57
- Rank, Chapter 1

Session Two: June 6th - 6-10p.m.***Topic: The Intersections of Race & Class***

- Eitzen & Eitzen, Stigma 60-63
- E-Reserve, George, Black America, The Underclass and the Subordination Process
- E-Reserve, Moss, The Color of Class, Introduction and Chapter 3
- Rank, Chapters 2 & 3

Session Three: June 11th - 6-10p.m.***Topics: Health & Healthcare, Housing, Education***

- Eitzen & Eitzen, The Health Care System, 134-344
- Eitzen & Eitzen, Housing, Homeless Shelters & Neighborhoods, pp 105-115, Eitzen & Eitzen 72-80- Stigma
- Reader, Moss, The Color of Class, CH 6: Home, Sheltered by Whiteness
- E-Reserve, Liebow, *Tell Them Who I am*, Preface and Introduction, Appendix C
- Eitzen & Eitzen, Schools & Schooling, 145-152- be prepared to discuss
- Eitzen & Eitzen, Parenting in poverty, pp 85-98

Session Four: June 13th - 6-10p.m.***Topic: Work, Welfare, Welfare Reform and Motherhood***

- Eitzen & Eitzen, 64-72, 80-84 and The Welfare System, 116-133
- Eitzen & Eitzen, Work & Working, pp 155-177
- E-Reserve; Edin & Lein, The Choice Between Welfare & Work- Chapter 8-Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low Wage Work
- E-Reserve: Liebow, Chapter 2, Men and Jobs from Tally's Corner
- E-Reserve: Stack, Swapping: What Goes Round Comes Round, From All Our Kin

Session Five: June 14th - 9am-5pm

Topic- Service & Reflection in the Denver Community

Denver Rescue Mission- Lunch Service – 6090 Smith Road (between Colorado & Monaco)

Tour of Blair Caldwell Library

Toxic Tour- Environmental Racism in Action

Walking tour of 5 Points- A look at Gentrification in Action

Session Six: June 18th - 6-10p.m.

Service Reflection and Analysis of Newman Text

- Newman, *No Shame in My Game*, Preface-185.

Grading Information Details

Class attendance, preparation, and participation

40%

Your attendance and participation is essential for this class to reach its full potential. Participation and preparation will be gauged by the content and frequency of your class participation. Your participation should be informed by the readings.

Papers

40%

You will be expected to write two papers for this course. Each paper should show a comprehension of course materials and a scholarly synthesis of readings/ videos and lectures.

Paper 1 (Due June 6th): What is poverty and why does it exist and persist in American society? What are the connections between race, class, gender and age? How have the readings challenged (or supported) your previously held notions of poverty?

Paper 2 (June 13th): What are the connections between education, work, and poverty? How has public policy shaped the way people experience poverty? Why has public policy not alleviated poverty in America?

Final Exam

20%

This essay exam will be administered on June 18th at the end of class. The essay questions will require you to synthesize your learning from previous two weeks- notably the readings, videos and service experience.