Course Description
The goal of this course is to explore poverty in the context of the United States from a sociological perspective from a practical standpoint. The course is designed to be both informative and useful in practice. Throughout the quarter we will discuss and learn about how poverty is defined, who sets this definition and explore some of the causes of poverty. Although there are many explanations, this course will use a sociological viewpoint to better understand how structures influence people and shape outcomes for individuals. Throughout the course we will read text that describe the everyday lives of those living in poverty and reflect upon how this impacts society as a whole. We will discuss the various policy and programs attempting to alleviate poverty and discuss their potential positive and negative impact. Furthermore, we will use this information to propose potential actions in the future to lessen and/or address the crisis of poverty.

Course Objectives
The goal of this course is to explore the causes and consequences of poverty in the United States from a sociological perspective. We will cover theoretical perspectives, but the goal of the course is to apply knowledge in addressing issues of poverty. By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify and describe some of the causes of poverty from a sociological perspective.
- Identify and describe concepts and attitudes of the American public as they relate to poverty.
- Think critically about the definition and measurement of poverty in the US.
- Demonstrate empathy and understanding of the consequences of poverty.
- Demonstrate understanding of policies and programs that address poverty.
- Apply new knowledge to address poverty in the US.

Throughout the course, you will be asked not only to think critically about the issues regarding poverty in the U.S., but also to apply this new knowledge in an attempt to address some of these issues.

Required Texts
Nickel and Dimed On (Not) Getting by in America
Barbara Ehrenreich
Where We Stand: Class Matters
Bell Hooks

Articles and materials as assigned weekly on D2L.

Course Guidelines
Discussion Posts
For many students poverty may be an issue you are close to and for others it may be something you experience as an outsider. No matter where we are on that spectrum, issues related to poverty can result in heated conversations at times. As we discuss some of the debated issues in our online forums it is important to create an atmosphere of respectful dialogue. Below I have listed some guidelines to follow when posting and responding to online discussion. Please read!!

• Be respectful and considerate of others’ viewpoints. Not everyone will see the same points as you do, but the goal is to learn. Assume positive intent of the writer.
• Keep discussion post language respectful.
• Write in complete sentences and paragraphs. I will not be grading for grammar or spelling, but your posts should be clear and thoughtful.
• Do not write in ALL CAPS—this indicates anger or frustration.
• Cite any quotes or ideas that are not your own. (APA or ASA is fine)
• Incorporate ideas, theories and examples from readings and texts.
• Post each week—you will so much more from the course! It also adds to the learning experience for everyone else.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1: Who is poor? Who decides?</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defining Poverty and Class in the United States</td>
<td>View: Prof. &amp; Course Intro A Framework for Understanding Poverty: 37-45 D2L Articles</td>
<td>Introduction Discussion Posts: • Post • 2 responses</td>
<td>Jan. 7 Jan. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Jan. 5-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Jan. 11-17</td>
<td>PowerPoint: Defining Poverty/Class D2L Articles View: Inequality for All</td>
<td>Discussion Posts: • Post • 2 responses</td>
<td>Jan. 14 Jan. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Jan. 18-24</td>
<td>D2L Articles View: Assignment</td>
<td>Discussion Posts: • Post</td>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3: What are the consequences of poverty? Who bears the human cost? The Faces of Poverty: Women, Children and People of Color</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 4: Jan. 25-31 | Nickel and Dimed: 1-49 D2L Articles | Discussion Posts:  
- Post  
- Extra Credit: Day of Service Reflection  
Extra Credit: Day of Service Reflection | Jan. 28  
Jan. 31  
Jan. 31 |
| Week 5: Feb. 1-7 | Nickel and Dimed: 51-119 D2L Articles | Discussion Posts:  
- Post  
- Extra Credit: Literature Review  
Extra Credit: Literature Review | Feb. 4  
Feb. 7 |
| Week 6: Feb. 8-14 | Where We Stand: Class Matters: 1-23, 111-120 D2L Articles View: Assignment Details | Discussion Posts:  
- Post  
- Extra Credit: Final Paper Details  
Extra Credit: Final Paper Details | Feb. 11  
Feb. 14  
Feb. 14 |
| Module 5: What can we do? The Way Forward: Policy and Reform |
| Week 9: March 1-7 | D2L Articles | Discussion Posts:  
- Post  
- Extra Credit: Final Paper w/ Revisions  
Extra Credit: Final Paper w/ Revisions | March 4  
March 7 |
| Week 10: March 8-14 | Where We Stand: Class Matters: 121-130, 156-164 D2L Articles View: Final Paper Details | Discussion Posts:  
- Post  
- Extra Credit: Rough Draft  
Extra Credit: Rough Draft | March 11  
March 14  
March 14 |
| Week 11: March 15-20 | No reading or discussion, final paper | Final Paper w/ Revisions | March 20 |
Grading and Late Work

Grading for the course will be based upon the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion Posts (8/wk)</td>
<td>80 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post (4 pts.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses (4 pts.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and References</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Policy/Reform Paper</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extra Credit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of Service Reflection</td>
<td>5 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Rough Draft</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>165 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I do not accept late work because it becomes cumbersome and difficult to keep up with. I want to be able to engage in the course as an instructor and this can hinder my engagement. If you have a special circumstance, (illness, accident, etc.) please talk with me as soon as possible. I understand life happens, and will make sure you are not penalized. It is much easier to help you and adapt if we communicate though. I will also offer extra credit a few times throughout the term to accommodate. The goal is to have assignments build upon each other.

Assignments

The majority of your points for this class come from your weekly participation on the discussion boards. In addition, you will have 3 assignments. The assignments are meant to build upon each other so your final paper will be a culmination of your work for the quarter. Your final paper will be a Policy/Reform paper in which you will propose support of an already existing policy or support of a new policy or reform to address one cause of poverty for a population. You will need to pick a specific population and topic to address in your paper in order to do this. Keep in mind that each assignment leading up to your final paper is a first draft of part of your paper and will need to be revised for the final paper. The 3 assignments are detailed below:

1. **Introduction and Reference (10 pts.)**

For this assignment you will write your first draft of your introduction and provide a list of potential references for your final paper. Here are the guidelines:
• Your introduction should introduce your topic (what population, program and context you will write about)
• This is a rough draft, but should follow academic writing guidelines (See Owl Purdue).
• References should include at least 4 sources from outside this class.
• Introduction should be 1-2 pgs., double-spaced, 12-pt. font
• Include a title page with your name, class and date (this is in addition to the 1-2 pages.)
• Reference list should include a total of 8-12 sources.
• Reference list should be listed in APA or ASA format.

2. Literature Review (25 pts.)

For this assignment you will write a literature review—meaning a paper describing what is already known about your topic, how others have studied the topic and/or what others suggest should be done about your topic. Here are the guidelines:

• Your paper should be 3-5 pages long (*title and reference pages not included), double-spaced, 12-pt. font
• Should follow academic writing guidelines (please see resources for help)
• Your paper should reference studies, articles, quotes internally (in your paper), using APA or ASA formatting throughout.
• Your paper should connect to your topic and population
• Include your introduction with revisions and reference page

3. Final Policy/Reform Paper (50 pts.)

This is your final for this class. For this assignment you will put all of your previous papers and work together to form one cohesive paper. In this paper you will need to expand on your Introduction and Literature Review by purposing a reform or policy consideration to address your topic/problem. You will also need to include a conclusion. Here are the guidelines:

• Your paper should be 8-10 pages long (*title and reference pages not included), doubled-spaced, 12-pt. font
• Should follow academic writing guidelines
• Your paper should reference studies, articles, quotations internally (in your paper), using APA or ASA formatting throughout
• Your paper should connect to your topic and population
• Your reform should address the problem or topic laid out in your introduction and literature review
• The reform or policy consideration should be reasonably attainable with tangible outcomes (e.g. abolishing capitalism may solve the problem of poverty, but is unlikely to take place in the next year; versus support of a labor movement to improve wages)
• Your paper should include a conclusion reviewing what you have said and the outcomes of your proposal
• Your final paper should include revisions from previous papers