**SOS4100 – Social Stratification: Class, Gender, and Ethnicity**

**Kursansvarlig:** Gunn E. Birkelund og Are Skeie Hermansen

**Course description**

Social stratification and inequality characterize all known societies and a number of social theories aim to explain why this is the case. In this course we will discuss theories and empirical studies on social stratification and inequality in modern societies; in particular studies that relate reproduction of inequality to processes within the family, educational system and the labor market. The course will provide you with knowledge about recent studies of social, political and economic inequality. Importantly, the course provides knowledge of the Norwegian case in a comparative perspective.

First, we start by outlining some basic issues and concepts in the study of social stratification.

Second, we address changes in overall economic inequality over time and across the globe. We then discuss different measures of status hierarchies in modern societies.

Third, we present recent research on intergenerational mobility in terms of broad comparative trends over time and within countries. We also discuss the mechanisms underlying socioeconomic mobility and persistence across generations.

Fourth, we discuss factors shaping labor market inequalities between individuals and groups with a focus on supply-side (e.g. human capital), demand-side (e.g. discrimination), and matching perspectives (e.g. social networks).

Fifth, we address gender inequalities within the educational system, labor market, and family life in contemporary societies.

Finally, we discuss ethnic inequalities and the integration of immigrants and their children within the educational system and the labor market. This section also addresses the impact of school and neighborhood segregation for children’s life chances.

In all lectures we emphasize the link between a research question and an empirical research design, which will be useful for your later work on your master thesis. In the final lecture we summarize the course and discuss preparations for the exam.

This course will provide you with knowledge that are relevant for your employment opportunities, such as employers’ hiring policy, authority relations, organizational analysis, economic growth, human capital, and equal opportunities.
Overview lectures

Lecture 1: Social inequality — Introduction, concepts and theoretical perspectives
Lecture 2: Inequality as a macro phenomenon
Lecture 3: Structures of inequality: Social class, social status and occupational group
Lecture 4: Intergenerational mobility – Comparative trends
Lecture 5: Intergenerational mobility II – Social mechanisms
Lecture 6: Poverty and the impact of early childhood
Lecture 7: Labour market – human capital and social networks
Lecture 8: Labor market –matching and discrimination
Lecture 9: Gender, education, work and family
Lecture 10: Immigration and inequality
Lecture 11: Segregation in schools and neighborhoods
Lecture 12: Course summary and preparations for the exam
Lecture 1: Social inequality — Introduction, concepts and theoretical perspectives


NY (I FORRIGE UTGAVE AV GRUSKY SIN BOK)! Krueger, Alan B. (2008 [2003]) «Inequality, Too Much of a Good Thing» i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective 3. utgave (s. 53-60) (7 sider)


NY (I BOKA)! Esping-Andersen, Gøsta og Myles, John (2014 [2008]) “Kap. 6 The Welfare State and Redistribution” i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective 4. utgave (7 sider)

Total: 64 pages

Recommended reading

The Economist: “True Progressivism” special report on inequality”
http://www.economist.com/node/21564556

Lecture 2: Inequality as a macro phenomenon


NY! @Autor, David (2014) “Skills, education, and the rise of earnings inequality among ‘the other 99 percent’” i Science (9 sider)


Total: 98 pages

Recommended reading


NY! @ Ravallion, Martin (2014) “Income inequality in the developing world” i Science (5 sider)
Lecture 3: Structures of inequality: social class, social status and occupational groups


Total: 60 pages

Recommended reading

Lecture 4: Intergenerational mobility – comparative trends


NY (I BOKA)! Jackson, Michelle (2014 [2013]) “Kapittel 63. Determined to Succeed” ” i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race and, Gender in Sociological Perspective 4. utgave (8 sider)


Total: 124 pages

Recommended reading

Lecture 5: Intergenerational mobility II – Social mechanisms


@ Mare, Robert (2011). A Multigenerational View of Inequality, *Demography*, 48: 1–23. 22 sider


Total: 108 pages

*Recommended reading*

Lecture 6: Poverty and the impact of early childhood


Total: 59 pages

Recommended reading:

Lecture 7: Labour market – Human capital and social networks


NY (I BOKA)! Granovetter, Mark S. (2014 []) “Ch. 74. The Strength of Weak Ties” i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective 4. utgave (5 sider)

NY (I BOKA)! Lin, Nan (2014) “Ch. X. Social Networks and Status Attainment” i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective 4. utgave (3 sider)

NY (I BOKA)! Burt, Ronald S. (2014 []) “Structural Holes” i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective 4. utgave (5 sider)


Recommended reading:

Lecture 8: Labor market – Matching and discrimination

NY (I BOKA)! Sørensen, Aage B. and Arne L. Kalleberg “Kapittel 71. An Outline of a Theory of the Matching of Persons to Jobs” i David B. Grusky Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective 4. utgave (9 sider)


NY (I BOKA)! Petersen, Trond (2014 []) «Discrimination: Conscious or Nonconscious?» [7 sider]


Total: 110 pages

Recommended reading:

Lecture 9: Gender, education, work and family


Total: 140 pages

Recommended reading:


Lecture 10: Immigration and inequality


Total: 138 pages

Recommended reading:


Lecture 11: Segregation in schools and neighborhoods


Total: 55 pages

*Recommended reading:*


Lecture 12: Course summary and preparations for the exam

Total number of pages: 986