This course introduces students to key concepts and theoretical approaches to the study of social inequality. The focus of the course is on American society. The course topics and readings are outlined below.

**Week 1 – Week 3 Key Concepts and Approaches**

**Sociological Framework**

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”

Max Weber, “Social Stratification and Class Structure”

**American Society in Context**


Derrick Bell, “The Space Traders”


**Week 4-Week 6 The Idea of an American Identity**


**Week 7-Week 8 Inequality and Personhood in American Society**


**Week 9-Week 10 Inequality in American Society**

Herbert J. Gans, “Uses of the Underclass in America”

Namit Arora, “What do we deserve?”

George Packer, “The broken contract: Inequality and American decline”

Robert J. Samuelson, “The withering of the affluent society”

Bill Moyers, “The rule of the rich”


_Economics for the 99%_ (Columbia University, Center for Popular Economics, 2012)

**Class Requirements**

**Examinations**

There are 4 class examinations. Each examination is worth 25 points.

**Grading Scale**

100-97 points = A+; 96-93 = A; 92-90 = A-
89-87 points = B+; 86-83 = B; 82-80 = B-
79-77 points = C+; 76-73 = C; 72-70 = C-
69-67 points = D+; 66-63 = D; 62-60 =D-
59 points or less = F