

University of Mississippi

INST 101: Introduction to International Studies (Dinius, Section 3)

Instructor: Oliver Dinius	Fall 2012
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Module Theme: Inequality

Different forms of inequality (by income, race, class, or gender) have long been a crucial aspect of human history, often leading to socio-economic instability, popular protest, and far-reaching social and political changes. Since the 2008 financial crisis, the issue of inequality and its social, economic, and political consequences has received renewed attention around the world and in the United States, where it has been a recurring topic in the 2012 presidential campaign.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This module has two broad objectives.

- To familiarize students with basic concepts to understand inequality and analyze both historical and current global events from that perspective. We will focus on three kinds of inequality: between individuals in one nation, between nations, and between individuals across the globe.
- To give students an opportunity to hone their analytical and writing skills. In a reading and writing-intensive field like international studies, two key skills are to translate text (readings) into structured knowledge and to translate knowledge (from readings and research) into one's own writing. You will practice both skills by producing analytical outlines of readings and writing three analytical essays.

REQUIREMENTS

Three Outlines (of Vignettes from Milanovic Book)	20%
Three Essays	60%
Class Participation	20%

OUTLINES

For each of the three parts of the module, students will complete an analytical outline of one of the vignettes from book *The Haves and the Have-Nots* (assignments made in class).

A successful analytical outline summarizes the content of the text in bullet form in such a way that it includes key pieces of factual information and conveys the structure of the text's argument. It will take some practice to produce outlines that accomplish these goals. Therefore, the first two outlines will count less (5% each) than the last outline (10%).

ESSAYS

Each of the three parts concludes with an essay assignment. Specific topics and instructions will be handed out at the beginning of each part (see schedule below). Essays will be between 800 and 1000 words each (about three full pages at 12-font, 1-inch margins). The essays require critical thinking and polished writing: spell-check *and* proofread your writing! Assignments with excessive errors will be returned ungraded and must be re-submitted, and you will lose one letter grade on that assignment.

To give you a chance to develop your writing skills, I will count the first essay less (15%) than the second (20%) and the third (25%).

Upload the finished assignment to Blackboard before class on the due date and bring a printed copy to class. Late assignments will lose 10% for each full 24 hours of lateness. In cases of emergency, please talk to the instructor *before* the due date to negotiate an extension.

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If you receive a grade of B- or lower, you are encouraged to rewrite the assignment. Note that a rewrite is *not* simply a correction of formal errors or the addition of a few words, *but* a significantly changed and improved paper. Rewrites are due the Monday after the assignment was returned. The grades will be averaged. There is no guarantee that a rewrite will receive a better grade than the original paper.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

You are expected to attend all class sessions, finish all assigned readings prior to class, and participate actively in class. Class sessions will include lectures, discussions, and small group activities, and they may involve short readings or short writing assignments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Mississippi has an Academic Discipline Policy that will be followed in this course. Students are expected to submit their own original work in all aspects of this course and behave in a respectful manner both toward the professors and other students in the class. Suspected violations will be subject to disciplinary action according to the University policy. If you have questions, please consult the University's M Book (Section II, I. A-G).

READING

The following book is required for this module and available for purchase at the university bookstore:

Branko Milanovic. *The Haves and the Have-Nots: A Brief and Idiosyncratic History of Global Inequality.* New York: Basic Books, 2011.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Reading(s)	Assignment
Part I - Unequal People: Inequality among Individuals within a Nation		
Th, 8/23	Milanovic, pp. ix-xiv and 3-32.	
T, 8/28	Milanovic, pp. 33-45 and 68-91.	Outline #1 (Assigned Vignette from Ch.1)
Th, 8/30	Newspaper Article TBA	Essay #1
Part II - Unequal Nations: Inequality among Countries in the World		
T, 9/4	Milanovic, pp. 95-108.	
Th, 9/6	Milanovic, pp. 109-146.	Outline #2 (Assigned Vignette from Ch.2)
T, 9/11	Newspaper Article TBA	Essay #2
Part III - Unequal World: Inequality among Citizens in the World		
Th, 9/13	Milanovic, pp. 149-164.	
T, 9/18	Milanovic, pp. 165-197 and 208-217.	Outline #3 (Assigned Vignette from Ch.3)
Th, 9/20	Newspaper Article TBA	Essay #3