

## **COURSE CONTENT**

**Course Code / Title:** HS2008 Social Class and Inequality

**Pre-requisites:** HS1001 Person and Society

**No of Aus:** 3

**Contact Hours:** 39

### **Course Aims**

The contemporary global context is one of rising wealth/income inequality and narrowing social mobility. Class privilege or disadvantage and their reproduction shape people's wellbeing in profound ways. Addressing inequalities along class lines is a challenge many societies, including our own, face.

In this course, we aim to better understand how class formation and inequalities work, and how they might be ameliorated.

The course is divided into four parts: first, we ask what social class is and how sociologists have approached its study. We also map out trends in inequality globally and locally. Second, we turn to asking how class matters in shaping people's experiences in everyday life. Third, we investigate the various sites and means through which class privilege/disadvantage are reproduced. Finally, we consider recent movements against inequality and visions of a more equitable world.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Evaluate the different ways sociologists have approached the study of class.
2. Describe the key theories that account for the reproduction of class differences and inequalities.
3. Articulate connections between micro, meso, and macro phenomenon.
4. Apply critical lenses to contemporary manifestations of various types of inequalities.

### **Course Content**

Week 1                      Introduction to the course  
Key concepts:            Class differences and inequalities

Week 2	Sociologists study class and inequality
Key concepts:	Income Wealth Proxies and measurements
Week 3	Class structure and inequality trends: wealth, poverty, and everything in between
Key concepts:	Income and wealth inequalities Poverty
Week 4	Work and occupations
Key concepts:	Wage work Care labor
Week 5	Family
Key concepts:	Familial responsibilities Parenting Dignity needs
Week 6	Housing
Key concepts:	Basic needs, public goods
Week 7	Capitalism
Key concepts:	Power Exploitation
Week 8	Ideologies and narratives
Key concepts:	Ideologies
Week 9	Education
Key concepts:	Cultural capital Symbolic capital and symbolic violence
Week 10	State and policies
Key concepts:	State Public policy principles

Week 11            Politics, economy, society  
Key concepts:    Populism, polarization

Week 12            Alternative visions of the world  
Key concepts:    Redistribution

Week 13            Semester-end review/revision

### **Course Assessment**

CA1 Group video presentation:    30%

CA2 Essay:                                30%

CA3 Class participation:            10%

Final examination:                   30%

Total                                        100%