

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

SOS 4100

**SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
EGALITARIAN NORWAY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

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COURSE CONTENT

This course provides a comprehensive presentation of key dimensions of social inequality in contemporary societies in the early 21st century. We address core issues such as economic inequality and intergenerational mobility, immigration and ethnic inequalities, and gender inequality in education and work. The aim of the course is two-fold: First, we provide students with an empirical understanding of how patterns of social inequality in the Norwegian welfare state society compares to other rich, developed countries. Second, we provide students with a set of theoretical perspectives and analytical tools to make sense of both cross-national variations in inequality patterns at the macro level and the mechanisms that shape social regularities and individual outcomes at the micro level.

The course will address these and related questions: What are driving forces behind increasing socioeconomic inequalities in Western societies since the latter quarter of the 20th century? To what extent is the impact of "the birth lottery" – i.e., which parents you are born to – on future life chances and social mobility related to the level of economic inequality in a given society? To what extent do immigrant-origin minorities experience gradual assimilation into the ethnic mainstream of their new home countries and what are the key mechanisms behind changes in ethnic stratification across immigrant generations? Why do men still earn higher wages than women despite the fact that women now complete more education than men in most developed countries?

Throughout, we focus on how societal institutions, such as a strong welfare state, shape countries' level and dynamics of inequality related to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and gender. The syllabus primarily focuses on recent empirical studies and state-of-the-art literature reviews but also covers some foundational theoretical texts. We emphasize the link between good research questions and suitable empirical research designs to address these, which will be useful for later work on your master thesis. The course will provide you with knowledge that is highly relevant for your employment opportunities, such as employers' hiring policy, authority relations, organizational analysis, economic growth, human capital, and equal opportunities.

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Course Outline

- Topic 1. Introduction (1)
- Topic 2. Structures of inequality and trends in comparative perspective (2)
- Topic 3. Labor market inequality: human capital, matching, and discrimination (2)
- Topic 4. Social origin, education, and intergenerational mobility (2)
- Topic 5. Immigrant assimilation/integration and ethnic stratification (2)
- Topic 6. Gender inequality: education, work, and family (2)
- Topic 7. Summary: integrating the literature – what does it all mean? (1)

INTRODUCTION (1)

Grusky, D. B. & Wiesshaar, K. R. (2014) "Ch. 1a: The Questions We Ask About Inequality" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 1-16). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [17 pages]

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@Gornick, J.C. & Jäntti, M. (2013). "Poverty" *Pathways, State of the Union 2016*: 15-24. [10 pages]

@Jusko, K. (2016). "Safety Net" *Pathways, State of the Union 2016*: 25-31. [7 pages]

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Esping-Andersen, G. & Myles, J. (2014) "Ch. 6: The Welfare State and Redistribution" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 52-58). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [7 pages]

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Fischer, C. S. et al. (2014 [1996]) «Ch. 4: Inequality by Design» in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 39-42). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [4 pages]

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STRUCTURES OF INEQUALITY AND TRENDS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (2-3)

INN:

*Grusky, D. & Weisshaar, K. R. (2014) "Ch. 5. A Compressed History of Inequality" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 44-51). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [7 pages]

*Bell, D. (2014) "Ch. 123: The Coming of Post-Industrial Society" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 1066-1077). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [11 pages]

*Esping-Andersen, G. (2014) "Ch. 124: Social Foundations of Post-Industrial Economies" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 1078-1090). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [13 pages]

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@Neckerman, K. M., & Torche, F. (2007). *Inequality: Causes and consequences. Annual Review of Sociology*, 33, 335-357. [23 sider]

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Atkinson, A. B., Piketty, T., & Saez, E. (2014) "Ch. 7: Top Incomes in the Long Run of History" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 59-72). 4thed. Boulder: Westview Press. [14 pages]

@Autor, D. (2014) "Skills, education, and the rise of earnings inequality among 'the other 99 percent'" in *Science* 344(6186): 843–851. [9 pages]

Firebaugh, G. (2014) "Ch. 132: The New Geography of Global Income Inequality" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 1139-1150). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [12 pages]

Treiman, D. J. (2014 [1976]) "Ch. 24. Occupational Prestige in Comparative Perspective" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 233-236). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [4 pages]

*Goldthorpe, J. H. (2007) "Social Class and the Differentiation of Employment Contracts" in John Goldthorpe: *On Sociology. Volume Two—Illustration and Retrospect* (Pp. 101-124) 2nd ed. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. [24 sider]

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LABOR MARKET INEQUALITY: HUMAN CAPITAL, MATCHING, AND DISCRIMINATION (4-5)

INN:

Borjas, G. J. (2013) *Labor Economics*, 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies. Pp: 1-10 (Introduction); 235-240 (Human Capital); 276-279 (The Mincer earnings function) [19 pages]

UT:

@Becker, G. (1962). "Investment in Human Capital: A Theoretical Analysis. *Journal of Political Economy* 70: 9-49. [41 pages]

Sørensen, A. B. & Kalleberg, A. L. "Ch. 71: An Outline of a Theory of the Matching of Persons to Jobs" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 632-639). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press [9 pages]

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Granovetter, M. S. (2014) «Ch. 74. The Strength of Weak Ties" " in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 653-657). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [5 pages]

Lin, N. (2014) "Ch. 75: Social Networks and Status Attainment"" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 657-659). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [3 pages]

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Reskin, B. (2014). "Ch. 98: Rethinking Employment Discrimination and Its Remedies" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 849-858). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [10 pages]

Petersen, T. (2014) «Ch. 99: Discrimination: Conscious or Nonconscious?» in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 858-864). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [7 pages]

Bertrand, M., & S. Mullainathan (2014) "Ch. 86: Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 747-751). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [5 pages]

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SOCIAL ORIGIN, EDUCATION, AND INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY (6-7)

Breen, R., Luuikx, R. Müller, W. & Pollak R. (2014). "Ch. 62: Nonpersistent Inequality in Educational Attainment" " in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 551-561). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [12 pages]

Jonsson, J. O., Grusky, D. B., Di Carlo, M., & Pollak, R. (2014). "Ch 55: It's a Decent Bet Our Children Will Be Professors Too" " in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 480-495). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [16 pages]

@Mastekaasa, A. (2011) "Social Origins and Labour Market Success – Stability and Change over Norwegian Birth Cohorts 1950–1969." *European Sociological Review* 27(1):1-15. [15 pages]

Lareau, A. (2014) «Ch. 116. Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life» in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 1013-1022). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [11 pages]

@Nielsen, F. & Roos, J. M. "Genetics of Educational Attainment and the Persistence of Privilege at the Turn of the 21st Century." *Social Forces* 94 (2): 535-561. [27 pages]

INN:

*Erikson, R. & Jonsson, J. O. (1996) "Explaining Class Inequality in Education: The Swedish Test Case," in Erikson, J. & Jonsson, J. O. (eds.) *Can Education Be Equalized?* (Pp. 1-64) Boulder: Westview Press. [64 pages]

@Torche, Florencia. 2015. "Intergenerational Mobility and Equality of Opportunity," *European Journal of Sociology* 56(3): 343–371. [28 pages]

Heckman, J. (2014) "Ch. 48: Skill Formation and the Economics of Investing in Disadvantaged Children" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 412-416). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [5 pages]

Jackson, Michelle (2014) "Ch. 63. Determined to Succeed" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 562-569). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [8 pages]

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@ Breen, R. (2014). "Ch. 54: Social Mobility in Europe" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 464-479). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [16 pages]

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@Knudsen, E. I., Heckman, J. J., Cameron, J. L., & Shonkoff, J. P. (2006). Economic, neurobiological, and behavioral perspectives on building America's future workforce. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 103(27), 10155-10162. [8 pages]

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION/ASSIMILATION AND ETHNIC STRATIFICATION (8-9)

Alba, R., and Nee, V. (2014) "Ch. 83: Assimilation Theory for an Era of Unprecedented Diversity" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 721-728). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [8 pages]

Portes, A. & Zhou, M. (2014) "Ch. 84: The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants" in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 729-740). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [11 pages]

@Heath, A. F., Rethon, C. & Kilpi, E. (2008). "The Second Generation in Western Europe: Education, Unemployment, and Occupational Attainment." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 34: 211–35. [25 pages]

@Ichou, M. (2014). "Who They Were There: Immigrants' Educational Selectivity and Their Children's Educational Attainment." *European Sociological Review* 30:750-765. [16 pages]

@Hermansen, A. S., & Birkelund, G.E. (2015). "The Impact of Immigrant Classmates on Educational Outcomes." *Social Forces* 94(2):615-642. [32 pages]

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@Alba, R. & Foner, N. (2016). "Integration's challenges and opportunities in the Wealthy West," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 42(1), 3-22. [20 pages]

Jiménez, T. (2014). "Ch. 85: Why Replenishment Strengthens Racial and Ethnic Boundaries," " in David B. Grusky (ed.) *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (Pp. 740-746). 4th ed. Boulder: Westview Press. [7 pages]

*Massey, D. S. (2016) "Segregation and the Perpetuation of Disadvantage" in David Brady & Linda M. Burton (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Poverty*. (Pp. 369-393) Oxford: Oxford University Press. [24 pages]

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@Bratsberg, B., & Røed, K. (2016) "The Nordic Welfare Model in an Open European Labor Market". *Nordic Economic Policy Review: Whither the Nordic Welfare Model?* 2015 (2):19-42. [24 pages]

GENDER EQUALITY: EDUCATION, WORK, AND FAMILY (10-11)

@Buchmann, C. & DiPrete, T. A. (2006) "The Growing Female Advantage in College Completion: The Role of Family Background and Academic Achievement," *American Sociological Review*, 71: 515-541. [26 pages]

*Charles, M. and Grusky, D. B. (2004) "The Four Puzzles of Sex Segregation." I: Charles & Grusky (red.) *Occupational Ghettos* (ch. 1). Stanford: Stanford University Press. [35 pages]

@Petersen, T., A. M. Penner, and G. Høgsnes (2014) From Motherhood Penalties to Husband Premia: The New Challenge for Gender Equality and Family Policy, Lessons from Norway, *American Journal of Sociology*, 119: 1434-1472. [39 pages]

@Charles, M. (2011). A world of difference: international trends in women's economic status. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 37, 355-371. [17 pages]

*Polachek, S. (2012) "A Human Capital Account of the Gender Pay Gap", in Grusky, Davis & Tamar Kricheli-Katz (eds.) *The New Gilded Age. Critical Inequality Debates of Our Time*. Stanford University Press, pp. 161-188 [27 pages]

*Blau, F. D. (2012) "The Sources of the Gender Pay Gap", in Grusky, Davis & Tamar Kricheli-Katz (eds.) *The New Gilded Age. Critical Inequality Debates of Our Time*. Stanford University Press, pp 189-208 [19 pages]

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SUMMARY: INTEGRATING THE LITERATURE – WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? (12)

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SUM UT: 279

SUM INN: 282

SUM TOTAL: 992 pages

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