This course will explore the sociology of poverty. In that regard, it will examine a number of theories on the causes of poverty, and then turn to the consequences of poverty for the people who live in it. Although the course will focus a good deal of attention on poverty in the US, there will be readings and lectures that deal with it in other societies as well. For the US we will look at the history of poverty in the US, the everyday lives of the poor, the social problems experienced as a result of poverty, and finally the role of social policy in the cycle of poverty. In addition, the course will address the role that poverty has played in the everyday lives of the divergent ethnic groups that have had it as part of their cultural experience in America. In this regard, the course will examine the interactive impact that poverty has had on the various cultures of the ethnic groups that have had a history of confronting persistent poverty and compare their experience with those groups that have had a history of experiencing poverty temporally. Finally, while there has been in recent times an urban bias to the study of poverty we will include poverty in rural areas as well.

**REQUIREMENTS:** There will be three essay exams given and they will be “closed book” and taken in class. Two of these exams will be given during the regular ninety-minute period allotted for the class, and the third will be the final exam where students will be given three hours. If for reasons of illness or a death to a member of the immediate family, the student is not able to take the exam, then a make-up exam will be offered. For an illness, a doctor’s note telling me that it was impossible for the student to perform their tasks on the exam is required. For a death in the immediate family, a note from a family member with a phone number to call for verification is required. If students do not have either of these verifications, they will not be excused and will receive an “F.”

**EXAM DATES:** October 2nd for Exam # 1, November 20th for Exam # 2, and December 12th for the Final Exam.

**GRADING:** The instructor has developed all the exams for the course. In this regard, the instructor has written the questions and the answers to these questions for the reader to follow. In this way, the students will know that there was an answer for each of these questions and this answer was consistently applied to each student on each question. Every question is of equal weight and so is every exam. Thus, the final exam is one third of the student’s final grade. For each exam the student will be given a point sum and a letter grade. A+= 100-96; A= 95-92; A-= 91-90; B+= 89-87; B= 86-83; B-= 82-80; C+= 79-77; C= 76-73; C-= 72-70; D+= 69-67; D= 66-63; D-= 62-60; F= 59-0. The formula for your final grade is determined by adding up the scores on your three exams, dividing by three to determine your mean score, placing that score on the scale provided above,
and then assigning the appropriate letter grade. Finally, for those students who are taking the course on a pass/fail basis, you must receive a C- or better on each of the exams to receive a pass grade. If any one of your exams falls below the C- level you will be given a “no pass” grade.

Week 1
August 28: Discussion of the Outline for the Course

Week 2
August 28: Lecture on Analytic Concepts Utilized
   Readings: Fischer, Inequality By Design
August 30: Lecture on Role of Genetics on Individual Poverty
   Readings: Fischer, Inequality By Design

Week 3
September 4: Lecture on Human Capital and Poverty
   Readings: Inequality By Design
September 6: Lecture on Social Capital and Poverty
   Readings: Inequality By Design

Week 4
September 11: Lecture on Economy and Poverty
   Readings: Wilson, When Work Disappear
September 13: Geography and Poverty
   Reading: Wilson, When Work Disappears

Week 5
September 18: Lecture on Poverty and Social Structure I
   Readings: Wilson, When Work Disappears
September 20: Lecture on Poverty and Social Structure II
   Readings: Wilson, When Work Disappears

Week 6
September 25: Lecture on Geography and Rural Poverty
   Readings: Duncan, Worlds Apart
September 27: Lecture on Rural Poverty and Culture
   Readings: Duncan, Worlds Apart

Week 7
October 2: Exam # 1 (Covers Material from Books IBD, WWD, and Lectures on those topics)
October 4: Lecture on Rural Poverty and Social Structure I
   Readings: Duncan, Worlds Apart
Week 8
October 9: Lecture on Institutions and Poverty
   Readings: Sánchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*
October 11: Lecture on Neighborhood Housing and Poverty
   Readings: Sánchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*

Week 9
October 16: Lecture on Everyday Economics and Poverty
   Readings: Sánchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*
October 18: Lecture on Culture and Poverty
   Readings: Sánchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*

Week 10
October 23: Lecture on Crime and Poverty
   Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*
October 25: Lecture on Corruption and Development
   Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*

Week 11
October 30: Lecture on Crime and Social Structure
   Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*
November 1: Lecture on the State and Social Control
   Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*

Week 12
November 6: Lecture on Poverty and Disease
   Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*
November 8: Lecture on Poverty and Health
   Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*

Week 12
November 13: Lecture on Disaster and Poverty
   Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*
November 15: Lecture on Social Isolation and Poverty
   Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*

Week 13
November 20: **EXAM # 2 (Covers Books CIP, PTP, II and lectures on the topics)**
November 22: Thanksgiving Holiday
Readings: Edin, *Promises I Can Keep*

Week 14
November 27: Lecture on Sexuality and Poverty  
Readings: Edin, *Promises I Can Keep*

November 29: Lecture on Parenting and Poverty  
Readings: Edin, *Promises I Can Keep*

Week 15
December 4: Lecture on Poverty and Public Policy  
Readings: Patterson, *America’s Struggle With Poverty*

December 6: Review  
Readings: Patterson, *America’s Struggle With Poverty*

December 12: FINAL EXAM from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Covers PICK, ASWP, Lectures on those topics, material from the rest of the course.)