

As of 11/25/02

Sociology 41. Perspectives on Inequality.

Spring, 2003

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 and by appointment

This course will introduce social-science perspectives on inequality primarily in contemporary societies. We will examine both the distribution of social rewards as well as processes for the allocation of these rewards. Topics include the influence on individual success of education; race and gender, and structural and organizational factors. Acquaintance with stratification theory and quantitative methods is not required. Course requirements are a) active class participation; b) locating issues involving inequality in the newspaper (or online); c) a midterm exam; d) a final exam; e) one short essays due before the midterm; and f) a short project report after the midterm.

Required Readings:

Dalton Conley Being Black, Living in the Red. 1999. Berkeley, CA: U. California Press.

Claude S. Fischer, et al. 1996. Inequality by Design : Cracking the Bell Curve Myth.
Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Dennis Gilbert. 1998. The American Class Structure : In an Age of Growing Inequality
(Fifth Edition.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Jay MacLeod. 1995. Ain't No Makin' It. (Second Edition.) Boulder, Colorado: Westview.

Barbara Reskin and Irene Padavic. 2002. Women and Men at Work. (Second Edition.)
Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

All book are available for purchase at the Penn Book Center on 34th Street.

Sociology 10. Seminar and Readings Schedule

(* indicates that the material is available on the Sociology 10 blackboard site)

Week 1. Thursday, Sept. 5. Course Overview; Inequality in a Variety of Contexts

Week 2. Sept. 10-12. Social Background and Schools

Required Reading: Jay MacLeod. 1987. Ain't No Makin' It. Boulder, Colorado: Westview, Chapters 1-8.

Week 3. September 17-19. Social Background and Careers; Marx and His Critics

Required Reading: Jay MacLeod. 1987. Ain't No Makin' It. Boulder, Colorado: Westview, Chapters 9-11.

Required Reading: Karl Marx and Frederich Engels, The Communist Manifesto.*

Randall Collins, Sociology in the Underground@ Karl Marx.@ pp. 32-54 in Collins and Makowsky, The Discovery of Society*

Week 4. September 24-26. Marx's Critics; The Meritocracy Debate

Required Reading: Davis, Kingsley and Wilbert Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification," American Sociological Review 10:242-249.*

Tumin, Melvin. 1953. "Some principles of stratification: a critical analysis," American Sociological Review 18:387-393.*

Weber, Max. 1966. "Class, Status and Party," reprinted in Lipset and Bendix, eds., Class, Status and Power, 2nd edition. New York: Free Press.*

Randall Collins, Max Weber: The Disenchantment of the World@ pp. 118-140 in Collins and Makowsky, The Discovery of Society*

Recommended: Dennis Gilbert 1997. The American Class Structure, 5th Edition. Chicago: Dorsey Press, Chapters 1-3.

Week 5. October 1-3. Analyzing Social Mobility

1. Understanding Mobility Flows

Required Reading: Dennis Gilbert The American Class Structure, Chapter 6.

2. The Status Attainment Perspective

Required Reading: Gilbert, The American Class Structure, Chapter 7.

Christopher S. Jencks et al., Who Gets Ahead?, Chapter 8.*

Week 6. October 8-10. Intelligence and Success

Required Reading: Claude S. Fischer, et al., Inequality by Design : Cracking the Bell Curve Myth. Chapters 1-4.

Supplemental Reading: Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray. The Bell Curve : Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life. (A Free Press Paperbacks Book), 1996.

Week 7. October 15-17. March 28. Education and Inequality

Required Reading: Peter Cookson and Caroline Persell, The Chosen Ones,[@] Excerpt from Preparing for Power*

Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities: Children in American's Schools, New York: Crown Publishers, 1991, pp. 1-39.*

Week 8. October 22-24. Gender Inequality

October 23. Midterm

Required Reading: Barbara Reskin and Irene Padavic, Women and Men at Work Chapters 1-4.

Week 9. October 29-31. Gender Inequality

Required Reading: Barbara Reskin and Irene Padavic, Women and Men at Work Chapters 5-9.

Week 10. November 5-7. More on Gender Inequality

Readings: Jerry A. Jacobs, selected papers and work in progress

Week 11. November 12-14. Inequality in Wealth.

Required Reading: Dalton Conley Being Black, Living in the Red: Race, Wealth and Social Policy in America. 1999. Berkeley, CA: U. California Press.

Week 12. November 19-21. Poverty and Mobility

Required Reading: Greg Duncan, Years of Poverty, Years of Plenty, Chapters 1-3.*
Kathy Edin and Laura Lein, Making Ends Meets, Chapter 1-2.*

Week 13. Nov. 26 The Growth of Inequality

Required Reading: Claude S. Fischer, et al., Inequality by Design : Cracking the Bell Curve Myth. Chapters 5-7.

Required Reading: Timothy Smeeding and Barbara Torrey. 1988. "Poor Children in Rich Countries," Science. November 11, pp. 873-877.*

Week 14. December 3-5 Concluding Thoughts:

Policy reforms

END OF COURSE

Other possible topics include:

Week 14. December 4-6. Celebrity

topic 1. Views of Celebrities

topic 2. Wrapping up.

Joshua Gamson. Claims to Fame : Celebrity in Contemporary America. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1994.

Week 15. February 7. Marx and His Critics

Required Reading: Karl Marx and Frederich Engels, The Communist Manifesto.*

Weber, Max. 1966. "Class, Status and Party," reprinted in Lipset and Bendix, eds., Class, Status and Power, 2nd edition. New York: Free Press.*

Dennis Gilbert 1997. The American Class Structure, 5th Edition. Chicago: Dorsey Press, Chapters 1-3.

Supplemental Reading: Joshua Gamson. Claims to Fame : Celebrity in Contemporary America. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1994.

Week 16. November 29. Status, Taste and Consumption

***Readings: Pierre Bourdieu. Distinction. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1984, 1996.

Week 17. Comparative Welfare State

***Readings: Gosta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism. Richard Freeman, Working Under Different Rules.

Supplemental Reading: Robert Erikson and John H. Goldthorpe, The Constant Flux : A Study of Class Mobility in Industrial Societies.

Week 18. April 15. Comparative Perspectives on Stratification

Readings: Arne Kalleberg. 1988. "Comparative Perspectives on Work Structures and Inequality," Annual Review of Sociology 14:203-25.*

Judah Matras. 1980. "Comparative Social Mobility," Annual Review of Sociology 5:401-31.*

Week 19. April 22. Mobility and Political Attitudes

Readings: James Kluegel and Eliot Smith. 1986. Beliefs About Inequality. New York: Aldine.

Week 20. Sports and Social Mobility

Sack and Thiel, "College Football and Social Mobility: A Case Study of Notre Dame Football Players," *Soc of Education* 52 (1979):60-66.

Melnick and Sabo, " Sport and Social mobility among Afrinca-American and hispanic athletes, in Eisen and Wiggins, eds., Ethnicity and Sport in North American History and Culture_, Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1994.

J.H. Braddock II, Race, Sports, and Social Mobility: A Critical Review"
Sociological Symposium, issue #30, spr 1980: 18-38

M. Oliver, "Race, Class, and the Family's Orientation to Mobility through Sport," Sociological Symposium, Issue 30, Spr 1980: 62-86.

Supplemental Readings:

William G. Bowen and Derek Bok. The Shape of the River. Princeton U. Press, 1998.

Robert H. Frank. The Winner-Take-All Society. New York: Free Press, 1995.

Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray. The Bell Curve : Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life. (A Free Press Paperbacks Book), 1996.

Michael Katz, The Undeserving Poor New York: Pantheon Books, 1989.

Frank Levy, The New Dollars and Dreams. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1999.
Katherine Newman, Falling from Grace. Berkeley, CA: U. California Press, 1999 [1988].