Sociology 230: Social Stratification

University of North Carolina, Spring 2002


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Office Hours: T,TH 2-3

Class time and Location:
Fridays, 9-12 Hamilton 150

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**Description:**
This course is an introductory survey of social stratification, class, and inequality. The topics have been selected to cover the broad range of research on inequality in sociology. The theoretical perspective, however, is interdisciplinary, and a central concern of the course will be contrasting Weberian, functionalist, Marxist, and neo-classical Economic views of the causes of consequences of inequality.

**Format and Requirements:**
Each class will consist of a brief lecture followed by class discussion. The reading load is consistent with a graduate level seminar, but will not exceed 300 pages a week.

1) Reading notes:
To prepare for class discussion on the readings, a list of reading questions will be posted on the web prior to each class [to the left of each week’s readings on the schedule page, the “RN” links]. You do not have to write out complete answers, just turn in an outline or sketch of each answer sufficient to demonstrate that you have done the reading and thought about the question. Class lecture and discussion will begin with the expectation that you have completed the reading questions.

2) Research Paper:
A research paper of 20 pages on social stratification is due 5/6.

3) Class participation and discussions:
As in any seminar, the quality of the class depends on the quality of class discussion. It is the instructor’s goal to make the classroom a comfortable and stimulating environment for discussion and dialogue. I would like everyone to participate actively in discussion each class. Anyone who feels uncomfortable or left out of discussion should talk to me directly; I am only satisfied with the discussions if all of you are.
**Readings**
The following books have been ordered. The remaining readings will be available in the sociology library (2nd floor of Hamilton Hall) or on the web (if they are highlighted in blue)


## Sociology 230: Social Stratification

### Class Schedule

Note: The online class schedule, [www.unc.edu/~tedmouw/soc230/class/schedule.htm](http://www.unc.edu/~tedmouw/soc230/class/schedule.htm) is the “official” class schedule. The reading assignment is “locked in” when the reading notes are posted.

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<th>Class/ date</th>
<th>RN</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1 J11       | RN1| Introduction | W. Lloyd Warner, Yankee City, introduction and Ch. 2 “Social Class and Social Structure” (p. 35-61)  
Lipset and Bendix, 1959. Social Mobility in Industrial Society, (p. 1-143, 260-287) part 1, part 2, part 3 |
| 2 J18       | RN2| Marx I | Karl Marx, selections (p. 3-39 of Classes, Power, and Conflict: Classical and Contemporary Debates, Edited by Anthony Giddens and David Held)  
Jon Elster, An Introduction to Karl Marx (p. 1-139)  
Erik Olin Wright, “Varieties of Marxist Conceptions of Class” and “A General Framework for the Analysis of Class Structure” (p. 94-109 of Social Stratification, Edited by David Grusky)  
Ehrenberg & Smith, Modern Labor Economics, Ch. 2 “Overview of the Labor Market” (p. 25-57) |
| 3 J25       | RN3| Marx II | Burawoy, Manufacturing Consent (p. 1-94)  
Kingston, The Classless Society, Ch. 1-3 (p. 1-52)  
Ehrenberg & Smith, Modern Labor Economics, part of Ch. 3 “The Demand For Labor” (p. 58-71) |
| 4 | F1 | RN4 | Weber & Giddens  
Weber, “Class, Status, and Power” (p. 60-87 of Classes, Power, and Conflict: Classical and Contemporary Debates)  
Giddens, The Class Structure of Advanced Societies (selections, 150 pages)  
Parkin, Marxism: A Bourgeois Critique (p. 141-154 of Grusky, + intro)  
Ehrenberg & Smith, Modern Labor Economics, Ch. 8 “Compensating Wage Differentials and Labor Markets” (p. 241-278) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | F8 | RN5 | Labor Economics & Human Capital  
Ehrenberg & Smith, Modern Labor Economics, Ch. 9 “Investments in Human Capital: Education and Training” (p. 279-325)  
Robert Willis, “Wage Determinants: A Survey and Reinterpretation of Human Capital Earnings Functions” (Handbook of Labor Economics)  
Osberg, Economic Inequality in the United States, Ch. 8 “The Neoclassical Perspective: The Implications of Choice” and Ch. 9 “Structural Interpretations: The importance of Constraints” (p. 130-183) |
| 6 | F15 | RN6 | Inequality & Poverty  
Osberg, Economic Inequality in the United States (p. 3-128, 184-194)  
Edin & Lein, Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work (selections)  
Smith, Brooks-Gunn, and Klebanov, “Consequences of Living in Poverty for Young Children’s Cognitive and Verbal Ability and Early School Achievement” (p. 132-167 of Consequences of Growing up Poor, Edited by Greg Duncan and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn)  
[lecture on Mayer] |
| 7 | F22 | RN7 | Social Mobility  
Blau & Duncan, The American Occupational Structure (selections)  
Kingston, The Classless Society, Ch. 3-4 (p. 37-86) |
| 8 | M1 | RN8 | Justice & Exploitation: Marx & Economics  
Thurow, Generating Inequality Ch 2. “Economic Equity” (p. 20-50)  
Ehrenberg & Smith, Modern Labor Economics, part of Ch. 3 “The Demand For Labor” (p. 72-93)  
Roemer, Free To Lose: An Introduction to Marxist Economic Philosophy, (p. 1-177)  
| 9 | M8 | RN9 | Class & Culture  
Bourdieu, Distinction (selections)  
Kingston, The Classless Society Ch. 5,7-8 (p. 87-100, 119-158)  
Lamont, Money & Morals (selections) |
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*Movie:Gattaca, Wednesday, 3/20 8:00 pm* |
| 11   | A5      | Bell Curve & Critique | Herrnstein & Murray, The Bell Curve, (selections)  
Hout et.al, Inequality by Design (selections)  
| 12   | A12     | Gender I | Ehrenberg & Smith, Ch12 “Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Labor Market”  
Altonji and Blank, (Handbook of Labor Economics Volume 3c, Chapter 48) “Race and Gender in the Labor Market”  
Goldin, Understanding the Gender Gap (217 pages) |
| 13   | A19     | Gender II, Race I | Reskin and Roos, Job Queues, Gender Queues (selections)  
Cox, Caste, Class, and Race (selections)  
Oliver and Shapiro, Black Wealth/White Wealth (p. 1-52, 91-126)  
| 14   | A26     | Race II | Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged (p. 1-105)  