

Princeton University

Department of Sociology

Spring '95

Sociology 510b: Social Stratification

Professor: Frank Dobbin

This course surveys classical and contemporary approaches to inequality, with the goal of exploring the causes and consequences of stratification by class, race, gender, and other characteristics. We will trace the history of theories of inequality with an eye to comprehending them as historical products that reflect contemporaneous thinking about inequality. The course is designed as a graduate level introduction, and as such covers approaches ranging from historical materialism to status attainment theory to structural theories to recent constructivist approaches.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS

We will meet weekly for three hours. Please come prepared to discuss the readings. Please submit a short precis of the readings -- no more than a paragraph for each reading, a page total -- by 9 a.m. each Tuesday before class.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

A reading packet containing all of the readings is available from Pequod Copy at 6 Nassau St., phone: 921-7888.

Week 1: CLASSICAL APPROACHES

1. Marx, Karl. 1974. *The German Ideology*. New York: International. Pp. 39-94.
2. Max Weber. 1980 [1946]. "Class Status and Party." Pp. 89-97 in *Social Stratification*. Edited by Vincent Jeffries and H. Edward Ransford. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
3. Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification." *American Sociological Review* 10: 242-249.

Week 2: MOBILITY

1. Peter Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan. 1967. *The American Occupational Structure*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. Chapter 12.
2. Featherman, David L. and Robert M. Hauser. 1978. *Opportunity and Change*. New York: Academic. Chapter 6
3. Bielby, William T. 1981. "Models of Status Attainment." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 1:3-26.

Week 3: POVERTY

1. Eliot Liebow. 1967. *Tally's Corner*. Boston: Little, Brown. Chapters 1 and 2.
2. Oscar Lewis. 1975 [1966]. "The Culture of Poverty." Pp. 167- 176 in *Life Styles: Diversity in American Society*. Second Edition. Edited by Saul Feldman and Gerald Thielbar. Boston: Little, Brown.
3. William Julius Wilson. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged*. Chicago: University of Chicago. Chapter 2.
4. McLanahan, Sara. 1985. "Family Structure and the Reproduction of Poverty." *American Journal of Sociology* 90:873-901.

Week 4: THE CONSTRUCTION OF STATUS

1. Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard

University Press. Part I.

2. DiMaggio, Paul and John Mohr. 1985. "Cultural Capital, Educational Attainment, and Marital Selection." *American Journal of Sociology* 90:1231-1261.
3. Lamont, Michele. 1992. *Money, Morals, and Manners: The Culture of the French and the American Upper-Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2.

1 Week 5: STRUCTURAL THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

Labor Markets

1. Robert Lynd and Helen Lynd. 1929. *Middletown*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. Chapters 6, 7, and 8.
2. Gordon, David M., Richard Edwards, and Michael Reich. 1982. *Segmented Work, Divided Workers*. London: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 6.

Organizational Factors

1. Baron, James N., and William T. Bielby. 1985. "Organizational Barriers to Gender Equality: Sex Segregation of Jobs and Opportunities." Pp. 233-251 in *Gender and the Life Course*. Edited by Alice S. Rossi. New York: Aldine.
2. Rosabeth Kanter. 1980. *Men and Women of the Corporation*. New York: Basic. Chapter 6.

1 Week 6: INTERNATIONAL INEQUALITY

1. Lenin, V.I. 1976 (1916). "Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism." Pp. 212-263 in *Lenin: Selected Writings*. New York: International.
2. Bornschie, Volker, Christopher Chase-Dunn and Richard Rubinson. 1978. "Cross-national Evidence on the Effects of Foreign Investment and Aid on Economic Growth and Inequality: A Survey of Findings and a Reanalysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 84:651-83.
3. Western, Bruce. 1994. "Unionization and Labor Market Institutions in Advanced Capitalism, 1950-1985." *American Journal of Sociology* 99: 1314-41.
4. Casper, Lynne M., Sara S. McLanahan and Irwin Garfinkel. 1994. "The Gender-Poverty Gap: What We Can Learn from Other Countries." *American Sociological Review* 59:594-605.

dobbin@pucc.princeton.edu Mar '95