

SOC 1640 S01
Spring semester 2009
Smith-Buonanno Hall 106

TU/TH 2:30 pm - 3:50 pm
Instructor: Prof. Hilary Silver
Teaching Assistant: Omar Pereyra

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND INEQUALITY

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with the major sociological theories of social exclusion, social class, inequality, and poverty. It examines how exclusion and inequality arise and persist; the relationships between class and status, inequality and heterogeneity, distributional and categorical inequalities; and the effectiveness of policies to reduce exclusion and inequality.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Prepare readings sufficiently in advance to be able to participate in class discussions and debates (15 percent of the grade).
2. A midterm examination on the readings from Part One of the course on (worth 40 percent of the grade) March 5
3. A ten-page research paper on a specific aspect of inequality or social exclusion of the student's choice (but approved by the Instructor or TA) applying course theories and readings. Due May 6 (worth 45 percent of the grade).

READINGS

No books were ordered for this course to keep costs down. Readings are available on-line via "e-journal," "mycourses," or "e-reserve/OCRA."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Two film screenings: "People like Us" and "Blue Eyes"
Guest speaker: Bert Cooper, Director of Mayor Cicilline's Poverty, Work, and Opportunity Task Force, with Vanessa Bekkouche, Providence Plan

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are held in 400 Maxcy Hall on Thursdays from 10-12 am. My telephone number is 401-863-2559. You may sign up for a 15-minute appointment on-line on our mycourses website or on the list on my office door. If you have another class during my office hours, please email me, suggesting two or three other times you can meet so we can find a mutually agreeable appointment. Please come. I look forward to getting to know you.

SYLLABUS

PART ONE: CLASS, INEQUALITY, POVERTY

1/22 Introduction

“My Laid-Off Life,” as told to Mara Altman. New York Magazine (28 December 2008) - mycourses

1/27 Sociological Theories of Social Class: Marx

Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto (e-reserve)

1/29 Sociological Theories of Social Class: Weber

Max Weber, “Class, Status, and Party,” From Max Weber, ed. Hans Gerth and CW Mills. Oxford, 1958 (e-reserve)

Recommended:

Lewis Coser, Masters of Sociological Theory

2/3 Sociological Theories of Social Class: Neo-marxists and Neo-weberians (Omar Pereyra)

Erik Olin Wright, Classes, Verso, 1985, ch. 3 “A General Framework for the Analysis of Class Structure,” pp. 64-104 (e-reserve)

Anthony Giddens, The Class Structure of Advanced Societies. Hutchinson 1973, ch. 2 “The Weberian Critique,” pp. 41-50; ch. 6 “Rethinking the Theory of Class (I),” pp. 99-112; ch. 7 “Rethinking the Theory of Class (II),” pp. 118-27 (e-reserve)

Recommended:

Aage Sorensen, “Toward a Sounder Basis for Class Analysis,” and Erik Olin Wright, “Class, Exploitation, and Economic Rents,” American Journal of Sociology 105, 6 (May 2000): 1559-71 e-journal

2/5 Income Inequality and the Declining Middle Class

Robert Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Testimony before the Ways and Means Committee (29 October 2008) mycourses

Kathryn M Neckerman and Florencia Torche. 2007. “Inequality: Causes and Consequences.” Annual Review of Sociology 33: 335-57. e-journal

Michael Marmot, “Inequalities in Health.” New England Journal of Medicine 345, 2 (12 July 2001): 134-46. e-journal

Recommended:

Larry Bartels, Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age. Princeton University Press, 2008, ch. 5

- Robert J. Gordon and Ian Dew-Becker. 2008. Controversies About the Rise of American Inequality: a Survey. NBER Working Paper no. W13982 (May).
- Arloc Sherman and Aviva Aron-Dine, New CBO Data Show Income Inequality Continues to Widen. (23 January 2007) <http://www.cbpp.org/1-23-07inc.htm>
- John Myles and Karen Myers, "Who Gets What and Why? Answers from Sociology." *American Behavioral Scientist* 50. 5 (January 2007): 578-83. e-journal
- Thomas DiPrete, "What Has Sociology to Contribute to the Study of Inequality Trends? A Historical and Comparative Perspective." *American Behavioral Scientist* 50. 5 (January 2007): 603-18
- Gosta Esping-Andersen, "Sociological Explanations of Changing Income Distributions," *American Behavioral Scientist* 50. 5 (January 2007):639-58.
- Kim Weeden, Young-Mi Kim, Matthew De Carlo, and David Grusky, "Social Class and Earnings Inequality," *American Behavioral Scientist* 50. 5 (January 2007): 702-36.

2/10 Poverty

- John Iceland, The CNSTAT Workshop on Experimental Poverty Measures, June 2004." *Focus* 23, 3 (Spring 2005): 26-30. WebCT Reading.
- Jared Bernstein, "Who's Poor? Don't Ask the Census Bureau." *New York Times* (26 September 2003). On-line via LexisNexis.
- Arloc Sherman, Robert Greenstein, and Sharon Parrott, "Poverty and Share of Americans Without Health Insurance Were Higher in 2007 – and Median Income for Working-Age Households Was Lower – Than at Bottom of Last Recession." Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 26, 2008 <http://www.cbpp.org/8-26-08pov.htm>
- David Snow and Leon Anderson, "Street People," *Contexts* 2, 1 (Winter 2003): 12-17 http://www.contextsmagazine.org/content_vol2-1.php e-reserve
- Shawn Fremstad, *Measuring Poverty and Economic Inclusion: The Current Poverty Measure, the NAS Alternative, and the Case for a Truly New Approach.* Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington (December 2008) www.cepr.net

Recommended:

- Janet M. Currie. 2008. *Protecting the Nation's Poor Children and Families.* Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-1-4008-2699-5
- John Iceland, "Measuring Poverty: Theoretical and Empirical Considerations," *Measurement* 3, 4: 199-235 and debate.

2/12 The Working Poor and the Minimum Wage

- Timothy Egan, "For \$7.93 an Hour, It's Worth a Trip Across a State Line," *New York Times* (11 January 2007). (Mycourses)
- Jason Furman and Sharon Parrott, "A Minimum Wage of \$7 would be a Useful Step in Helping Working Families Escape Poverty," Center for Budget and Policy Priorities <http://www.cbpp.org/1-5-07mw.htm>
- Larry Bartels, *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age.* Princeton University Press, 2008, "The Eroding Minimum Wage," pp. 223-51.

Sudhir, Venkatesh, *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor*. Harvard University Press, 2006, "The Street Hustler," ch. 4, pp. 166-213

David Shipler, *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*. New York: Knopf, 2004: Edge of Poverty (e-reserve)

Recommended:

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2005, pp. 1-13, 191-237 (mycourses)

Katherine Newman, *Chutes and Ladders: Navigating the Low-Wage Labor Market*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation/Harvard University Press, 2006.

Katherine Newman, ed. *Laid Off, Laid Low. The Invisible Safety Net*. 2008

Kevin Leicht and Scott Fitzgerald, *Postindustrial Peasants: The Illusion of Middle Class Prosperity*. New York: Worth, 2007.

Frank Munger, ed. *Laboring Below the Line: The New Ethnography of Poverty, Low-Wage Work and Survival in the Global Economy*. New York: Russell Sage, 2002.

Richard Kazis and Marc Miller, ed. *Low-Wage Workers in the New Economy*. Washington: Urban Institute, 2001.

2/17 no class – long weekend

2/19 Discussion on Poverty, Low Wages, and Racial Disparities of Poverty

Guest Speaker: Bert Cooper, Director of Mayor Cicilline's Poverty, Work, and Opportunity Task Force, with Vanessa Bekkouche, Providence Plan

Pathways to Opportunity: Building Prosperity in Providence

http://www.providenceri.com/press/docs/prosperity_in_providence.pdf

2/24 Social Class and Politics in America

Larry Bartels, *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*. Princeton University Press, 2008. Chapter 1 is on-line at:

<http://press.princeton.edu/quotes/q8664.html>

Also chs. 2, 3, 9

Recommended:

John Scott. "If Class is Dead, Why Won't It Lie Down?" Pp. 127-26 in *Inclusions and Exclusions in European Societies*, ed. Alison Woodward and Martin Kohli. London: Routledge, 2001.

Max Koch, "In Search of a Class Theory of Marginality and Exclusion." *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* 38, 2 (October 2001): 193-212.

Ruy Teixeira, *America's Forgotten Majority: Why The White Working Class Still Matters*, 2000, ch. 1. e-reserve

Andrew Gelman, David Park, Boris Shor, Joseph Bafumi, Jeronimo Cortina. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton University Press, 2008.

David Cay Johnston. 2007. *Free Lunch: How the Wealthiest Americans Enrich Themselves at Government Expense (and Stick You with the Bill)*. Portfolio.

2/26 Class and Culture (Omar Pereyra)

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*. Vintage, 1966, "Preface," pp. 9-11.

Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Harvard University Press, 1984:

Ch 1: The Aristocracy of Culture pp. 11-18;

Ch. 5: The Sense of Distinction, pp. 260-67;

Ch. 8: Class Habitus and Political Opinions, pp. 437-40;

The Political Space, pp. 451-53.

Richard Florida, "The Creative Class," from *The Rise of the Creative Class*, 2002.

Recommended:

Pierre Bourdieu, "The Forms of Capital," pp. 242-57 in *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, ed. John Richardson. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986.

Pierre Bourdieu, "Social Space and the Genesis of Groups," *Theory and Society* 14, 6 (November 1985): 723-44.

Richard Sennett, *Respect in a World of Inequality*. New York: WW Norton, 2003, pp. 49-64, 101-126. HV40/.S5157/2003

Pierre, Bourdieu, "The Sentiment of Honour in Kabyle Society," pp. 191-241 in *Honour and Shame: The Values of Mediterranean Society*, ed. J.G. Peristiany. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1965.

Richard Lloyd, *Neohomeia: Art and Commerce in the Post-Industrial City*. Routledge, 2005, ch. 10 "The Bohemian Ethic and the Spirit of Flexibility," pp. 235-46.

3/3 Film: "People Like Us"

New York Times series on "Class Matters" (June 2005) – mycourses

Recommended:

David Brooks, *BOBOs in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*, Simon & Schuster, 2000, pp. 1-102

Benjamin DeMott, *The Imperial Middle: Why Americans Can't Think Straight about Class*. New York: Morrow, 1990

3/5 Midterm Examination - Midsemester

PART TWO: SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND CULTURAL INEQUALITY

3/10 Introduction to Social Exclusion

Genesis 3:1-24 (Adam and Eve); Genesis 4:1-16 (Cain and Abel); and
Biblical excerpts on lepers

Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*. Vintage, 1972. PS3509/L57/1972, "Prologue"
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*. Holt, or Cambridge, or any edition will do.
Read "The Market-Place" [Recommended: "The Recognition," "Hester at her
Needle," "Another View of Hester," "The Pastor and the Parishoner," "Flood
of Sunshine," "The Revelation of the Scarlet Letter."]

Alain de Botton, *Status Anxiety*. New York: Pantheon, 2004, excerpt from pp. 9-10,
26, 36.

3/12 What is Social Exclusion?

Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, Vol. I. University of California Press, 1978, pp.
43-46, 341-43. (e-reserve)

Hilary Silver, "'Social Exclusion: The European Approach to Social Disadvantage.'
(with S.M. Miller) *Indicators 2, 2* (Spring 2003): 5-21. WebCT reading

Paul Littlewood and Sebastian Herkommer, "Identifying Social Exclusion: Some
Problems of Meaning." Pp. 1-22 in *Social Exclusion in Europe: Problems and
Paradigms*, ed. Paul Littlewood. Aldershot: Ashgate, 1999 (e-reserve)

Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth, *Redistribution or Recognition? A Political-
Philosophical Exchange*. New York: Verso, 2003, pp. 1-26 (e-reserve)

3/17 The Social Psychology of Exclusion: De Botton Revisited

Georg Simmel, "The Stranger" in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*, ed. Kurt Wolf.
Free Press.

Joseph Epstein, *Snobbery: The American Version*. Houghton-Mifflin, 2002, pp. 13-27
HN90.S6/E67/2002

Readings on snobs and rankism (my courses)

George Lakoff, *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal about
the Mind*. University of Chicago Press, 1987, pp. 5-11. P37/L344/1987

Charles Cooley, "The Looking Glass Self," excerpts from *Human Nature and the
Social Order* (New York: Scribners, 1922) in *The Production of Reality*, ed.
Peter Kollock and Jodi O'Brien. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 1994,
pp. 255-8.

3/19 Exclusion as Sanction: Identity, Shame, Social Control

Benjamin Kilborne, *Disappearing Persons: Shame and Appearance*. SUNY Press,
2002, pp. 83-92. BF173/K432/2002

Thomas Scheff, "Shame and the Social Bond: A Sociological Theory," *Sociological Theory* 18, 1 (March 2000): 86-99. Downloadable on campus at:
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/servlet/useragent?func=showIssues&code=soth>

Erving Goffman, selections from *Stigma* (Prentice-Hall 1963), pp. 203-15 in Leonard David, ed. *The Disability Studies Reader*. NY: Routledge, 1997.
HV1568/D5696/1997

Erving Goffman, *Interaction Ritual* 1967, "Embarrassment and Social Organization," pp. 97-112. HM291/G59/1982

Recommended:

Martha Nussbaum, *Hiding from Humanity*. Princeton University Press, 2004, Pp. 172-221.

Daniel Chirot and Anthony Reid, *The Essential Outsiders: Chinese in Southeast Asia and Jews in Eastern Europe*. University of Washington Press, 1997. 0-29597613-6

Bruce Link and Jo Phelan, "Conceptualizing Stigma." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27 (2001): 363-85.

3/21-29 Spring recess

3/31 film: "Blue Eyes" – WebCT "Bluer" article

4/2 Social Boundaries and Social Incorporation

Douglas Massey. 2008. *Categorical Inequality*. New York: Russell Sage, ch. 1.
http://books.google.com/books?id=XRuoC0L1ZG8C&pg=PT1&lpg=PT1&dq=douglas+massey+categorical+inequality+contents&source=web&ots=gMEJRoloQe&sig=PSQwtERzZoXwLqu5kNjHdTcGWog&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=3&ct=result#PPA5,M1

Michele Lamont and Virag Molnar. 2002. "The Study of Boundaries in the Social Sciences." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28: 167-95.

Jeffrey Alexander. "Theorizing the "Modes of Incorporation: Assimilation, Hyphenation, and Multiculturalism as Varieties of Civil Participation." *Sociological Theory* 19, 3 (November 2001): 237-49.

Norbert Elias and John L. Scotson. 1994. *The established and the outsiders: A sociological enquiry into community problems*. 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Charles Tilly, "Social Boundary Mechanisms." *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 34, 2 (June 2004): 211-36. e-journal

Boundary work in gentrifying neighborhood City & Community

Recommended:

Zerubavel, Eviatar. 1991. *The fine line: Making distinctions in everyday life*. New York: Free Press.

Monroe, Kristen Renwick, James Hankin, and Renée Bukovchik Van Vechten, "The psychological foundations of identity politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 3 (2000): 419-47

Greif, Avner. "Cultural beliefs and the organization of society: A historical and theoretical reflection on collectivist and individualist societies." *Journal of Political Economy* 102 (1994): 912-50.

4/9 Passover – no class

4/14 The Exclusion of Immigrants, Ethnicity, and the Assimilation Debate

Andreas Wimmer, "The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory," *American Journal of Sociology* 113, 4 (January): 970-1022.

Samuel Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2004) – on-line at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=2495
[This is an excerpt from Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity*, 2004 **ISBN: 0684870533**]

Richard Alba and Victor Nee, "Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration." *International Migration Review* 31, 4, no 120 (Winter 1997): 826-74. on-line through JSTOR

Recommended:

Alejandro Portes and Min Zhou. "The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 530 (November 1993): 74-96

Luis Eduardo Guarnizo, Alejandro Portes, and William Haller. "Assimilation and Transnationalism: Determinants of Transnational Political Action among Contemporary Migrants." *American Journal of Sociology* 108, 6 (May 2003): 1211-48.

Roger Waldinger, *Strangers at the Gate: New Immigrants in Urban America*. University of California Press, 2001, pp. 308-29. e-reserve

4/16 Nationalism and Exclusion

Anthony Marx, "The Nation-State and Its Exclusions." *Political Science Quarterly* 117, 1 (2002): 103-26 [on-line e-journal]

Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, "Beyond 'identity.'" *Theory and Society* 29 (2000):1-47. e-journal

Charles Tilly, *Identities, Boundaries, and Social Ties*. Boulder: Paradigm, 2006 ch. 9, pp. 131-52, and ch. 11 171-86

Recommended: Maurice Halbwachs, *On Collective Memory* (e-reserve)

4/21 Racial and Spatial Exclusion: Ghettos, Segregation, and the Underclass

Richard Sennett, *Flesh and Stone*. WW Norton, 1994, pp. 212-17, 222-37.

HT113/S45/1994

Loic Wacquant, *Urban Outcasts: Towards a Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2008, chs. 6, 7, 8 or Loic Wacquant and William Julius Wilson, "The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion in the Inner City," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 501 (January 1989): 8-25 [or Wilson's *The Truly Disadvantaged*.]

Ali Madanipour, "Social Exclusion and Space," pp. 181-88 in Richard LeGates and Frederic Stout (editors) *The City Reader* (3rd ed.) New York: Routledge 2003.

4/23 Racial Segregation and the Integration Debate

Michael Katz, Mark Stern, and Jamie Fader. *The New African American Inequality*. *Journal of American History* 92, 1 (1992)

www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/92.1/katz.html

Devah Pager and Hana Shepard, "The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34 (2008): 181-209

Karyn Lacy, *Blue-Chip Black: Race, Class, and Status in the New Black Middle Class*. University of California Press, 2007, pp. 150-84.

Sheryll Cashin, *The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are Undermining the American Dream*. New York: PublicAffairs/Perseus, 2004 [ISBN 1-58648-124-X]: Introduction (e-reserve)

4/28 Gender Segregation and Inequality (Reading Period)

Claudia Goldin, Lawrence Katz, and Ilyana Kuziemko, "Why Do Women Outnumber Men in College?" *NBER Digest*, January 2007 (mycourses)

Claudia Buchman, Thomas DiPrete, and Anne McDani, "Gender Inequalities in Education," *Annual Review of Sociology* 34 (2008): 319-37.

Jerry Jacobs, "The Sex Segregation of Occupations: Prospects for the 21st Century." Pp. 125-39 in *Handbook of Gender and Work*, ed. Gary Powell. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1999.

Gary Powell, "Reflections on the Glass Ceiling: Recent Trends and Future Prospects." Pp. 325-46 in *Handbook of Gender and Work*, ed. Gary Powell. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1999.

Eileen Boris and Angelique Janssens, "Introduction," pp. 1-14 in *Complicating Categories: Gender, Class, Race and Ethnicity*. *International Review of Social History*, Supplement 7, Cambridge, 1999.

Readings: Wal-Mart and other Sex Discrimination Suits (my courses)

4/30 Conclusion – Last class May 6 Papers due