

Soc 661: Social Stratification Fall 2014

Thursday, 6:30-9:00 p.m., ASY 1101
Prof. Philip N. Cohen
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Office hours: By appointment

This is the core required course for students specializing in Stratification in sociology. We will develop a familiarity with the theoretical foundations in the area, and explore recent substantive research in that light. Along the way, we will work to develop the ability to critically analyze work in this field; and advance our own research.

We will use the following books:

- Tilly, Charles. 1999. *Durable Inequality*. University of California Press.
- Grusky, Charles (ed.). 2014. *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective* (4th ed.). Westview Press.

We will read about one-quarter of the Grusky book; you need to read the current edition. I recommend buying it, but you can work something else out if you like. Additional readings are listed below. Web links are provided as a convenience and are subject to IP authentication and/or pay walls. Please leave yourself enough time to obtain the articles however necessary.

Course policies

Universal Learning: I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning. Any student with particular needs should contact UMD Disability Support Service (<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>), which can recommend accommodations. Then you and I can work out the details of any accommodations needed for this course.

Class participation: Students are expected to do all required readings prior to class and attend every class. We will address the readings' theoretical approaches, conclusions and implications, as well as methods and empirical findings. *No laptops, tablets, or phones during the seminar discussions.* Bring paper copies of the readings. (Why? Here's a good article on the no-laptop policy: <http://bit.ly/1ARaTpg>.)

Weekly writing: To facilitate the discussion and develop your skills, each week students will submit a short critical comment on the readings of less than two pages double-spaced, including your response to the readings generally and one specific question that you would like to discuss from each reading. Email this to me by 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Seminar paper: Students will write an in-depth research proposal on a specific issue in stratification. The seminar paper is to be a research proposal, including: literature review; statement on how the proposed study would contribute to this literature, and its limitations; a

description of methods and data, with as much specificity as possible (e.g., sample and variables or research site and collection strategy), and; statement of your thesis and hypotheses to be tested or explored. Good final papers will probably be about 20-25 pages. Students who already have research projects underway may submit more advanced forms of the project. The topic, with preliminary references (2-3pp.) is due **October 23**. A working outline and literature review (5-8 pp.) is due on **November 20**. Final papers are due **December 11**.

Grading: The final grade will be based on roughly equal weighting of (a) class participation, (b) weekly writing, and (c) the seminar paper.

Academic integrity: There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. The UMD Code of Academic Integrity is here: <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/III-100A.pdf>.

Note: Students religious conflicts should inform me of their needs at the beginning of the semester so we can arrange accommodations.

Schedule

September 4: Introductions

September 11: Who cares?

- Grusky & Weisshaar, and Grusky & Szelenyi (Ch 1)
- Functions and dysfunctions: Davis and Moore (Ch 2), Tumin (Ch 3), Fischer et al. (Ch 4)
- Wilkinson, Richard G. and Kate E. Pickett. 2009. "Income Inequality and Social Dysfunction." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35:493-511.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27800088>
- Piketty, Thomas, and Emmanuel Saez. 2014. "Inequality in the Long Run." *Science* 344 (6186): 838–43. <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/344/6186/838.full.pdf>

September 18: Marx & Weber

- Marx (Ch 14), Darherndorf (Ch 15), Wright (Ch 16)
- Weber (Ch 18), Giddens (Ch 19)
- Chan, Tak Wing and John H. Goldthorpe. 2007. "Class and Status: The Conceptual Distinction and Its Empirical Relevance." *American Sociological Review* 72(4):512-532.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25472477>

September 25: Durable Inequality

- Tilly, Charles. 1999. *Durable Inequality*. University of California Press.

October 2: Race inequality and segregation

- DuBois, W. E. Burghardt. 1901. "The Relation of the Negroes to the Whites in the South." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 18:121-140. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1009886>
- Wilson (Ch 40)
- Massey and Denton (Ch 44)
- Bertrand and Mullainathan (Ch 86)
- Iceland, John and Rima Wilkes. 2006. "Does Socioeconomic Status Matter? Race, Class, and Residential Segregation," *Social Problems* 53(2):248-273. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/sp.2006.53.2.248>

October 9: Social capital and elites

- Coleman, James S. 1988. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital." *American Journal of Sociology* 94:S95-S120. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2780243>
- Bourdieu (Ch 114)
- Lareau (Ch 116)
- Khan, Shamus. 2012. "The Sociology of Elites." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38 (1): 361-77. <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-soc-071811-145542>

October 16: Gender theories

- Chafetz, Janet Saltzman. 1997. "Feminist Theory and Sociology: Underutilized Contributions for Mainstream Theory." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23:97-120. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2952545>
- Acker, Joan. 2006. "Inequality Regimes Gender, Class, and Race in Organizations." *Gender and Society* 20 (4): 441-64. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27640904>
- MacKinnon, Catharine A. "Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory." *Signs* 7(3):515-544. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3173853>

October 23: Gender in the contemporary U.S.

- Correll et al. (Ch 96)
- Gorman and Kmec (Ch 103)
- Charles and Grusky (Ch 104)
- Blau (Ch 108)
- England (Ch 111)
- Cotter et al. (Ch 112)
- Ridgeway (Ch 113)
- Rosin, Hanna. 2012. "Who wears the pants in this economy?" *New York Times Magazine* August 30. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/02/magazine/who-wears-the-pants-in-this-economy.html>
- Cohen, Philip N. 2012. "Alabama matriarchy (debunking The End of Men edition)." *Family Inequality*, September 25. <http://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2012/09/25/alabama-matriarchy-debunking-the-end-of-men-edition/>

October 30: Family inequality

- Conger, Rand D., Katherine J. Conger, and Monica J. Martin. 2010. "Socioeconomic Status, Family Processes, and Individual Development." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3):685-704. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40732503>
- Edin, Kathryn and Rebecca Joyce Kissane. 2010. "Poverty and the American Family: A Decade in Review." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3):460-479. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40732491>
- Edin et al (Ch 39)
- Sharkey and Elwert (Ch 47)
- Cohen, Philip N. 2014. "Divergent responses to family inequality." Chapter 2 in, Paul Amato, Alan Booth, Susan McHale, and Jennifer Van Hook (Eds), *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality: Diverging Destinies*. New York: Springer. <http://www.terpconnect.umd.edu/~pnc/psu-ch2-2013.pdf>

November 6: Networks

- Granovetter (Ch 74)
- DiMaggio, Paul and Filiz Garip. 2012. "Network Effects and Social Inequality." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38: 93-118. <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.soc.012809.102545>
- Fernandez and Fernandez-Mateo (Ch 77)
- Fernandez, Roberto M., and M. Lourdes Sosa. 2005. "Gendering the Job: Networks and Recruitment at a Call Center." *American Journal of Sociology* 111 (3): 859–904. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/497257>

November 13: Incarceration

- Wakefield, Sara and Christopher Uggen. 2010. "Incarceration and Stratification." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36:387-406. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25735084>
- Wildeman, Christopher. 2012. "Imprisonment and Infant Mortality." *Social Problems* 59(2):228-257. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/sp.2012.59.2.228>
- Pager, Devah. 2003. "The Mark of a Criminal Record." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(5):937-975. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/374403>

November 20: Insecurity

- Western, Bruce, Deirdre Bloome, Benjamin Sosnaud, and Laura Tach. 2012. "Economic Insecurity and Social Stratification." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38: 341-359. <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-soc-071811-145434>
- Kalleberg (Ch 71)
- Rosenfeld (Ch 73)
- Cooper, Marianne. 2008. "The Inequality of Security: Winners and Losers in the Risk Society." *Human Relations* 61 (9): 1229–58. <http://hum.sagepub.com/content/61/9/1229.short>

December 4: Health disparities

- House, James S. 2002. "Understanding Social Factors and Inequalities in Health: 20th Century Progress and 21st Century Prospects." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 43 (2): 125. doi:10.2307/3090192.
- Phelan, Jo C., Bruce G. Link, and Parisa Tehranifar. 2010. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities Theory, Evidence, and Policy Implications." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51 (1 suppl): S28–S40. doi:10.1177/0022146510383498.
- Vaupel, James W., Zhen Zhang, and Alyson A. van Raalte. 2011. "Life Expectancy and Disparity: An International Comparison of Life Table Data." *BMJ Open* 1 (1): e000128. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2011-000128. <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/1/1/e000128.full>
- Cohen, Philip N. 2013. "Life expectancy, life disparity." *Family Inequality*, July 23. <http://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2013/07/23/life-expectancy-life-disparity/>

December 11: Global inequality

- Stiglitz (Ch 131)
- Korzeniewicz, R. P. and T. P. Moran. 1997. "World-economic trends in the distribution of income, 1965-1992." *American Journal of Sociology* 102(4):1000-1039. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2782025>
- Firebaugh (Ch 132)
- Clark, Rob. 2011. "World Income Inequality in the Global Era: New Estimates, 1990-2008." *Social Problems* 58(4):565-592. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/sp.2011.58.4.565>