Social Stratification & Inequality

"The division of society into distinct social classes is
one of the most striking manifestations of the modern world . . .
it has often been the source of other kinds of inequality, and . . .
the economic dominance of a particular class has very often been the basis for its political rule."
T. B. Bottomore, 1966

Staff
Professor       John Pease
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Of Course
Social Stratification and Inequality
Sociology 441 (section 0101)
9:30-10:45 Tuesdays and Thursdays Fall 2014
University of Maryland, College Park

Help Us
I am interested in learning what you think I should do to improve this course, to become a better teacher, and to help you become a better student. Whenever you have a question, complaint, concern, problem or whatnot about this course, let me know.

Course Objectives
1 To help you clarify and expand your questions about social stratification, social inequality, and social class;
2 to help you develop your own theory of class stratification;
3 to help you apply some of the concepts and knowledge of social stratification, social inequality, and social class to your own life experiences;
4 to help you better understand changes in social stratification and social class;
5 to encourage you to consider ways in which class inequality might be reduced; and
6 to encourage you to read critically, to think analytically, and to write clearly.

Primary Course Questions
1 How do the concepts, knowledge, and theories of social inequality and social class illuminate your own experience?
2 What is your theory of social inequality and social class? How do you describe and explain social inequality and social class?
3 How and why has social inequality and social class in America changed during the past century and what is the significance of these changes?
4 What determines the rate of poverty? What determines who is poor? What is it like to live poorly in America? How can, how should, poverty be reduced or alleviated?

I'd Rather Be Studying

pease@umd.edu 9/8/2014
Common Reading
This course features two books and 16 articles and chapters. The books are available for purchase at the University Book Center. The articles are available in ELMS/Canvas.

The books are:

The articles are:
- Chandler Davidson, "The Culture of Shiftlessness." [www.tcnj.edu/~kpearson/syllabi/culture.html](http://www.tcnj.edu/~kpearson/syllabi/culture.html)
Videos:
On Canvas and my SocheProfessor YouTube Channel

“Blue-collar in a White-collar World” 10
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsdrUBN5Es0

“Bourgeois Blues” 11
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljF9xaBTPR8

“Career Colleges” 14
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-6s5K458Tk

“Feminism” 8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaxXW8Kjwis

“The Great Depression” 5
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dViQ9tRZOKc

“The Great Recovery 9
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BM3Ru83BfOI

“The Post-war Boom 11
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrCrrFWpRQ0

“Poverty and Pickle Pickers” 5
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fIO2VrgOpU

“Social Class in America” 10
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6TKVXC115c

“Under the Influence” 14
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYFojK_3ORc

“Upper Class Wasps” 8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omtWalntgGE

Classroom (only)

“Class Dismissed -Class Clowns” 14

“The Controlling Interest” 46

Available on the WorldWideWeb

“Income Inequality: Johnston Interview 13 [N.B.: 0:00-12:35]
www.pbs.org/now/shows/332/index.html

www.pbs.org/now/shows/332/index.html

“Inequality For All”
http://inequalityforall.com/

“The Truth about the Economy” 3
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTzMqm2TqgE

“Wall Street” 5
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PF_iorX_MAw

“Wealth Inequality in America”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM

Who Owns Our Government? 58
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvXaLqKWUgo
Audio:
- Billie Holiday "God Bless the Child"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_1LfT1MvzT
- Huddie Ledbetter "Bourgeois Blues"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf6aHlN3wKI
- Peggy Lee "Is That All There Is?"
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ny5z8gKM18

ELMS/Canvas
Your source for:
- Campus Stories, Class Photos, Discussion, Grades, Modules (includes Assignments, Gazettes, Lecture ppts., Readings, Videos), Focus Questions for the Readings, and Syllabus

Necessary computer tools:
- Pdf reader such as Adobe  http://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Firefox or Chrome or Safari browser (to view videos)
- Flash (to view videos)
- Java (to process audio) http://www.java.com/en/
- Microsoft Word to submit written work
- Quicktime (to access video/mp4 files) http://apple.com/quicktime/download/

Class Attendance
This course needs your attendance and class participation. I have designed the course so there is substance to each of our class meetings. Class meetings provide important information, documentary video material, and discussion. Your questions and comments improve the value of the course. I take attendance at every class meeting because it helps me determine your command of course material (there is much that you learn in your courses that is not measured on even the most carefully crafted graded assignments), helps me learn your name, indicates how well I am doing, reminds you of your academic responsibility, and provides useful information for letters of recommendation. Moreover, research studies indicate that class attendance is a better predictor of grades than the number of hours you study outside of class and even better than your high school grade point average and your SAT score. If you do not know University policy regarding class attendance, please learn it before the beginning of our second class meeting. The complete policy is available online at http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content_section/c/27/ss/1584/s/1540

Graded Assignments
This course features a semester paper, two mid-semester exams, and a final exam. Each of these assignments count for 25 percent of your final grade in the course. Your assignments are graded for timeliness, accuracy, completeness, written expression, originality and, most of all, how well they demonstrate a profound understanding of the material. The grading scale for this course is:

\[
A = 93-100 \quad A- = 90-92 \\
B+ = 87-89 \quad B = 83-86 \quad B- = 80-82 \\
C+ = 77-79 \quad C = 73-76 \quad C- = 70-72 \\
D+ = 67-69 \quad D = 63-66 \quad D- = 60-62
\]
Academic Honor Code
Please affirm your commitment to the honor pledge ("I pledge that on my honor I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment") on all your graded assignments. The University Honor Code is available online http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm

Know No
1. You may use one of your electronic devices in class if you use it exclusively for note-taking. Please turn off all other electronic equipment before you enter the classroom and leave it off until you exit the classroom.
2. This course does not provide extra-credit assignments.

Disability Support Services
If you are registered with the Office of Disability Support Services please provide us with the accommodation letter. Information about the types of accommodations is available online http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html

CourseEvalUM
At the end of the course please go to http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu and submit your evaluation of the course.

Here We Are
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Yangzi Zhao
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We answer emails at least once each weekday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Course Calendar

September 2 Tuesday
Overview of the Course
Comment: The study of Social Stratification and Inequality
Audio: "God Bless the Child"

September 4 Thursday
Question: How is social stratification part of your life experience?
Lecture: Status Stratification in Everyday Life
Gazette: Social Hierarchy
Reading: Henley, “Power, Sex, and Nonverbal Communication”
September 9 Tuesday
  Question: What is social equality?
  Lecture: The Meaning of Social Equality
  Gazette: Social Equality
  Reading: Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron"
  Video: "Greenbelt"
  Field Trip: Tour Historic Greenbelt

September 11 Thursday
  Question: What are the big questions in the study of social stratification?
  Lecture: Conservative Thesis or Radical Antithesis
  Gazette: Basic Concepts and Perennial Questions
  Reading: Lenski, "Basic Issues"

September 16 Tuesday
  Question: Who gets what and why?
  Lecture: Explaining Structured Social Inequality
  Gazette: Basic Postulates
  Reading: Lenski, "Man and Society"

September 18 Thursday
  Question: What is Marx theory of stratified social inequality?
  Lecture: Marx Theory of Class
  Gazette: What Marx Said

September 23 Tuesday
  Question: What is the relevance of ideology for understanding inequality?
  Lecture: Ideology and Stratification
  Gazette: Ideology
  Video: "Feminism"

September 25 Thursday
  Question: How much social mobility is there and what causes it?
  Lecture: The Pattern and Causes of Structural Mobility
  Gazette: Social Mobility
  Reading: Gladwell, "The 10,000 Hour Rule"
  Video: "Bourgeois Blues"
  Audio: "Bourgeois Blues"

September 30 Tuesday
  Question: What explains the adult success of siblings?
  Lecture: Family and Social Class
  Gazette: Focus Questions for The Pecking Order
  Reading: Conley, The Pecking Order
October 2 Thursday
Test-u-do: Mid-semester Exam

October 7 Tuesday
Question: What is the shape of the American class structure?
Lecture: The Working Class Majority
Gazette: What Class Is
Video: “Social Class in America”
“Upper Class Wasps”

October 9 Thursday
Question: Is America a middle class society?
Lecture: The Middle Class Middle Mass Myth
Gazette: The Class Divide
Reading: Lareau “Invisible Inequality”
Video: “Blue Collar in White Collar World”
“Class Dismissed - Class Clowns”
Test-u-do: Semester Paper Assigned

October 14 Tuesday
Question: How did America recover from the great depression?
Lecture: A Rising Tide Lifts all Boats
Gazette: The Great Recovery
Video: “The Great Depression”
“The Great Recovery”
“The Post-war Boom”

October 16 Thursday
Question: Why has class inequality increased in recent decades?
Lecture: Politics, Technology, and Cupidity
Gazette: The Great U-turn
Video: “The Truth about the Economy”
“Wall Street”

October 21 Tuesday
Question: What Happened to Working Class Jobs?
Video: “The Controlling Interest”
Test-u-do: Semester Paper Due

October 23 Thursday
Question: How and why has class inequality increased in recent decades?
Lecture: Earnings, Income, and Wealth
Gazette: Money, Money, Money
WWW: Wealth Inequality in America
Video: “Income Inequality: Johnston Interview” (Minutes 0:00-12:35)
October 28 Tuesday
Question: What is the signature inequality event of your generation?
Video: “Inequality for All”

October 30 Thursday
Question: How much should jobs pay?
Gazette: Wages
Reading: Greenhouse, “Wal-Mart The Low-wage Colossus” and “Taking the High Road”
          Davis and Moore, “Some Principles of Stratification”
Video: “Income Inequality: Shulman Interview” (Minutes 12:40-21:20)

November 4 Tuesday
Question: Are corporations a person?
Video: “Who Owns Our Government?”
Gazette: The Savings and Loan Crisis

November 6 Thursday
Test-u-do: Mid-semester Exam

November 11 Tuesday
Question: What is the source and distribution of power?
Gazette: Power
Reading: Mills, “The Structure of Power in American Society”

November 13 Thursday
Question: How and why does political participation vary by class?
Lecture: Class and Politics
Gazette: Politics
Video: “Under the Influence”

November 18 Tuesday
Question: What is it like to live poorly?
Reading: Liebow, Tell Them Who I Am
Gazette: Focus Questions for Tell Them Who I Am

November 20 Thursday
Question: What determines the rate of poverty and who will be poor?
Lecture: Subculture vs. Political Economy
Gazette: Why Poverty
Reading: Davidson, “The Culture of Shiftlessness”
Video: “Poverty and Pickle Pickers”

November 25 Tuesday
Question: How should we reduce the rate of poverty?
November 27 Thursday
   No class: Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2 Tuesday
   Question: How to reduce the rate of poverty
   Lecture: Reducing the Poverty Rate
   Gazette: Reducing Poverty
   Reading: Berg, "Rich Man’s Qualifications for Poor Man’s Job"
   Video: “Career Colleges”

December 4 Thursday
   Question: What does unemployment mean?
   Lecture: Unemployment Rates
   Gazette: Unemployed
   Reading: Pease and Martin, “Want Ads and Jobs for the Poor”

December 9 Tuesday
   Question: What is the state of working?
   Lecture: When Work Disappears
   Gazette: Work is Fundamental
   Willamson, “The White Ghetto”
   Video: “When Work Disappears”

December 11 Thursday
   Course Review, Evaluation, and Revelry
   Reading: Reich, “A Secession of the Successful?”

December 16 Tuesday
   Test-u-do: Final Exam 8:00 a.m.

The Itch of Ignorance is a Gift