

Sociology 331
Social Class and Inequality
Iowa State University
Fall 2009
M & W 2:10-3:30 pm
162 Heady Hall

Professor: Dr. G. Jones Johnson
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OBJECTIVE OF COURSE:

The goal is to familiarize students with the many ways that sociologists and others have put forth to account for the origins, persistence and consequences of socio-economic inequality (social class and poverty) in America. It examines sociological theories of inequality and stratification, as well as empirical investigations of the institutions and processes by which social rewards and resources are differentially distributed. While the main focus is the examination and analysis of patterns and trends in poverty, class, race, gender inequality and immigration in contemporary U.S., the material includes a description of historical patterns, social change, and global economic inequality. The policy implications of the various theoretical perspectives and empirical findings will be discussed.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Leonard Beeghley. 2007. *The Structure of Social Stratification in the United States*. 5th ed. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
2. Barbara Ehrenreich. 2002. *Nicked & Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. NY: Wheeler Publisher, Inc.
3. Edward W. Morris. 2006. *An Unexpected Minority: White Kids in an Urban School*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press.
4. Alexander Portes & Ruben Rumbaut. 2006 (3rd ed). *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press.
5. Roberta Rehner Iversen & Annie Laurie Armstrong. 2006. *Jobs Aren't Enough: Toward a New Economic Mobility for Low-Income Families*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.
6. Michael D. Yates. 2007. *More Unequal: Aspects of Class in the United States*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Books are available at University Bookstore and on Reserve in Main Parks Library.

Films, videos and guest lectures will be announced. Course notes are on e-Reserve via the Main Library . Go to Library homepage, click on e-Reserve for Soc 331 notes for course. Course notes are arranged by topic from the syllabus and are *highly recommended*. The course syllabus, course notes and exercises are on course WEBCT.

Please check course web page (<http://www.soc.iastate.edu/classes.html>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be evaluated in terms of three (3) in-class exams consisting mainly or entirely of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, one short answer), five (5) Analytical Group Exercises and five (5) Descriptive Individual Exercises. **All exercises MUST be typed.** There will be three (3) In-Class Group Quizzes that will prepare you for the three (3) in-class exams. Students will work in groups of 2 or 3 and will be allowed to use notes and books during the quiz. I will take an average of the 3 quiz grades (a missed quiz will be assigned a zero) and assign extra credit to each group member. Each member of the group will be assigned the same score per quiz. Students will voluntarily select a group, however, I can assign groups if necessary. The average quiz grade will be used as extra credit to determine borderline grades (e.g. change a B+ to an A-). Please let me know if you have problems with your group, or finding a group. A quiz grade cannot be substituted for a group exercise. Extra credit in-class activities and quizzes will be given throughout the semester and cannot be made up because they are extra credit. The extra credit points will be summed at the END of the semester to determine borderline grades.

Students are expected to complete the **Analytical Group Exercises as** a group of 2 or 3. There cannot be more than 3 members per group. The due date will appear on each class exercise. Each member of the analytical group must briefly note (2-3 sentences) the part of the exercise in which they made a contribution followed by their initials; only student initials are needed for descriptive group exercises. This statement with initials is required for a student to get a grade for each Analytical Group Exercise. Students will not be given a grade for an exercise in which this statement/initials does not appear. If you have circumstances that prevent working in a group, please discuss it with the instructor. Extra credit points will be summed at the end of the semester to help determine borderline grades.

All written assignments and projects must be typed, double-spaced with 12 point font and 1 inch margins, and all multiple pages must be stapled (unstapled papers will not be accepted unless all names are on each page). **Please submit a paper copy of your assignment to Dr. Jones Johnson on or prior to the due date. Electronic submissions will not be accepted unless you have gotten my permission because of an emergency or hardship.**

Anyone missing an exam, or is late submitting the Class Exercises will be required to bring a written excuse from the University Health Services or other written justification for the absence. For best results, discuss your possible absence with me before you miss the exam. You will have one week in which to make up an excused exam without penalty. In subsequent weeks you may make up the exam at a penalty--the lowering by one grade level of your score for each intervening week.

Regular class attendance is expected and class attendance will be checked regularly. Students who attend class on a regular basis and read weekly reading assignments prior to class meetings in which they are to be discussed will maximize their success in the course. Everyone is expected to be **respectful of opposing viewpoints, of each other and of the professor**. Questions related to the course material are welcomed and encouraged!!! There will be NO INCOMPLETES (except under extraordinary circumstances). Grades are assigned + or -. University policies on academic dishonesty apply to all work in this course (please see Student Handbook). I encourage students to make active use of the instructor outside of the classroom, and office hours are provided for this purpose. Please call me at my office (294-2947) or stop by my office, 202 East Hall during my office hours before and if you have a problem. Leave a message with your telephone number on my office answering machine if I am not available and I will return your call as soon as I can. I DO NOT accept telephone calls at my HOME unless it is an **EMERGENCY**, however, I will be happy to make an appointment to discuss your concerns. Students can also reach me by e-mail. **Please get copies of exercises (descriptive and analytical) from WEBCT. The class notes are available through Web CT or the library- homepage/e-reserve.**

Grading

Your final course grade will be based on the following:

EXAM 1	25%	
EXAM 2	25%	
EXAM 3 or Final Exam (non-cumulative)	15%	
Five (5) Analytical Group Exercises (each is 5% of grade)	25%	(Based on required paperback books)
Five (5) Descriptive Individual Exercises (each is 2% of grade)	10%	(Based on chapters in Beeghley text)
TOTAL	100%	

Grade Distribution: 94+ A, 90-93 A-, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D 60-62, F<60. Pluses and minuses will also be given.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating on exams and use of notes or soliciting help from fellow students during an exam are not allowed. Plagiarism (the use of other's ideas and writings without proper acknowledgement) is a serious violation of university ethics (see Iowa State Information Handbook for detailed information). To avoid committing this offense, the following guidelines must be carefully followed.

- 1) All quotations of exact words must be enclosed in quotation marks, with indication of the exact source from which they are copied (e.g. articles, books, newspapers).
- 2) All paraphrases, summaries, or adaptations of passages which a writer sees fit to borrow must have the source of such material clearly indicated.
- 3) All factual material, except that which is of common knowledge, must have the source from which it is taken properly and completely acknowledged.
- 4) All assistance given to you as the writer either by books, by fellow students, or by experienced persons whom one interviews must be properly and completely acknowledged.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS *

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Required Readings</u>
1	8/24-28	Topic: Immigration, Types of Immigrants, and Economic Adaptation
	8/24	Introduction to Social Stratification
		Portes & Rumbaut, <i>Immigrant America</i> , Chapter 1
	8/26	Portes & Rumbaut, Chapters 1-2

- 2 8/31-9/4
8/31
9/2 **Topic** Immigration: Citizenship, Acculturation, Language and Education
Labor Day (University Holiday, offices closed)
Portes & Rumbaut, Chapters 3-5
Discuss **DESCRIPTIVE INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE I** (Beeghley Chs 1 - 3, 11 & 12) **Due: Sept. 9**
Discuss **ANALYTICAL GROUP EXERCISE I** (*Immigrant America*) **Due: Sept. 23**
- 3 9/7-11
9/7
9/9 **Topic:** Immigration, Socioeconomic Status and Intergroup Relations
Portes & Rumbaut. Chapters 6-8
Portes & Rumbaut. Chapters 9 & 10.
CLASS HANDOUTS ON THEORIES (Beeghley, Chapter 1 and course notes) **DEI due**
- 4 9/14-18
9/14
9/16 **Topic:** Theoretical Overview of stratification
Beeghley. Theoretical Perspectives on Stratification, Functional Theories. Chapter 1.
Beeghley. Theoretical Perspectives, Conflict theories Chapter 3.
- 5 9/21-25
9/21
9/23 **Topic:** Gender Stratification and Occupational Prestige
Beeghley. Gender & Stratification. Chapter 3.
Beeghley. Occupational Prestige & Class Identification. Chapter 4. **AEI due**
Yates. *More Unequal*: Introduction & Chapters 1-4.
Discuss **DESCRIPTIVE INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE II** (Beeghley Chs. 2-5) **Due: Oct. 14**
Discuss **ANALYTICAL GROUP EXERCISE II** (*More Unequal*) **Due: Oct. 28**
- 6 9/28-10/2
9/28
9/30 **Topic:** Status Attainment, Social Mobility and Global Inequality
Yates. Chapters 5-9.
Beeghley. Status Attainment and Social Mobility. Chapter 5.
Yates. Chapters 10-12.
- 7 10/5-9
10/5
10/7 **Topic: REVIEW**
Yates. Chapters 13-14.
Discuss **DESCRIPTIVE INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE III** (Beeghley Chs. 5-7) **Due: Nov. 4**
GROUP QUIZ 1 and REVIEW FOR EXAM 1
EXAM 1 (Wednesday) Includes *Immigrant America*, Beeghley Chs. 1, 3-5, 11, 12, Class notes and handouts.
- 8 10/12-16
10/12
10/14 **Topic:** Education Inequality and Social Reproduction
Morris. *An Unexpected Minority*. Chapters 1-4
Morris. Chapters 4-7 and Appendix. Course Notes on **education inequality** **DE II due**
Discuss **ANALYTICAL GROUP EXERCISE III** (*An Unexpected Minority*) **Due: Nov. 18**
- 9 10/19-23
10/19
10/21 **Topic:** Race, Political Participation and Wealth
Course notes on **education inequality** and **theories of racism**
Beeghley. Racial Ethnic Stratification. Chapter 2.
Beeghley. Racial Ethnic Stratification. Chapter 2
Discuss **DESCRIPTIVE INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE IV** (Beeghley Chs. 8-9) **Due: Nov. 30**
- 10 10/26-30
10/26
10/28 **Topic:** Ruling Class, Diversity and the Power Elite
Beeghley. Political Participation and Power. Chapter 6
Beeghley. The Rich. Chapter 7. **AE II due**
Class notes on **Socialization of the Rich and Power Elite**
- 11 11/2-6
11/2
11/4 **Topic:** Economic Aspects of Class
Beeghley. The Middle Class. Chapter 8
Beeghley. The Working Class. Chapter 9. **DE III due**
- 12 11/9-13
11/9
11/11 **Topic: REVIEW**
Class exercise, discussion of group quiz 2 and REVIEW for EXAM 2.
EXAM 2 (Wednesday) Includes material from Weeks 8-11; *More Unequal*, *An Unexpected Minority*, Beeghley, Chapters 2, 6-9

