Socy 661: Social Stratification

Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 p.m., ASY 1101
Prof. Philip N. Cohen
pnc@umd.edu (301) 405-7706
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 core areas of 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.

The following books are required reading:

Additional readings are listed below, and all are available electronically. 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 requirements

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.

Weekly writing: To facilitate the discussion and develop your skills, each week students will submit a short comment on the readings, in three parts. First, in less than two pages doubles-paced, provide (a) an issue or question that one (or more) of the readings raised for you, or a critical assessment; (b) in one sentence each, describe one thing that you learned from each reading; and in one sentence each, (c) one question that you would like answered. This must be emailed to me by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Seminar paper: Students are expected to 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 (2-3 pp.) is due October 17. A working outline and literature review (5-8 pp.) is due on November 14. Final papers are due December 12.

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.

Notes: Students with disabilities or religious conflicts should inform me of their needs at the beginning of the semester so we can arrange accommodations. (Halloween in not usually considered a holiday.)
Schedule

August 29: Introduction

September 5: Classical class lineages: Marx and Weber

September 12: No class

September 19: American functionalism and post-Durkheimians

September 26: Contemporary income inequality

October 3: Durable Inequality

October 10: The significance of class and race


October 17: Human capital and labor markets


October 24: Social and cultural capital


October 31: Gender theories


Optional


November 7: Gender in the Contemporary U.S.


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**November 14: Race, Class, and Gender**


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**November 21: No class**

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**November 28: Networks and elites**


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**December 5: Incarceration**


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**December 12: Global inequality debates**

