

Sociology 372 (a): Social Stratification
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00-8:50, 255 Upham Hall

Professor Stephen Lippmann

Office: 366 Upham Hall

Office Hours: 9:00-10:30 Monday and Wednesday, and by appointment

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Course description and objectives: Social stratification concerns the unequal distribution of things that are scarce but widely desired, and the process of status attainment or social mobility whereby some persons or groups come to receive more of these scarce things than are received by others. This course will review some of the classical and contemporary approaches to understanding the differential distribution of valued things and the social processes by which such inequality comes to be seen as legitimate, natural, or desirable. In addition, we will also evaluate empirical evidence and empirical studies of stratification and inequality in a variety of settings and contexts, including (but not limited to) education, employment and careers, health, race, ethnicity, and gender. In addition to these substantive objectives, this course contributes directly to the accomplishment of many following goals of the Sociology Program at Miami:

1. To understand the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.
2. To understand the role of theory in sociology.
3. To understand the roles of quantitative and qualitative methods in sociology.
4. To understand basic concepts in sociology and their theoretical connections.
5. To understand the roles of culture and social structure.
6. To understand the reciprocal relationships between individual and society.
7. To understand both macro sociology and micro sociology.
8. To think critically.
9. To understand the effects of social inequality.

Student responsibilities and course organization: To accomplish these objectives, we will rely heavily on class discussions and group work. In order for these activities to work successfully, you must *do each reading prior to the class in which it will be discussed, attend class regularly and be ready to contribute any questions, comments, or ideas that you have about the readings.* **Don't be afraid to read with a dictionary at your side. If you don't understand a word, skipping over it won't help you understand the reading or expand your vocabulary!** Because you are adults, attendance will not be graded. However, regular class attendance will undoubtedly improve your understanding of the course material and performance on the assignments.

Course Guidelines

Arrive to class on time, and I won't keep you late. Deal?

Turn off your cell phones!

Read the newspaper and sleep before you come to class.
Hand in assignments on time.
Treat your classmates with respect
Familiarize yourself with the new course withdrawal policy
(www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/handbook/)

Readings: There are four books required for the course. I have placed orders for these books at the Miami Bookstore. The books are:

David **Grusky** (editor). 2001. *Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective*. 2nd Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Lisa **Keister**. 2005. *Getting Rich: America's New Rich and How They Got That Way*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Irene **Padavic** and Barbara Reskin. 2002. *Women and Men at Work*. 2nd Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Jonathan **Kozol**. 1992. *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Other readings are available on electronic reserve via blackboard, and are indicated with a "BB" on the syllabus.

Assignments

Quizzes and homework assignments (20%)- Throughout the semester, we will have 12 in-class quizzes and/or homework assignments that will cover the readings and in-class material from the *previous* class session. Homework assignments are handed out in class, and **there are no make-ups for missed in-class quizzes**, but you can miss up to two (for whatever reason) leaving a total of 10 quiz grades.

Term paper (25%)- Towards the end of the semester, an 8-10 page term paper will be due on some topic or dimension of social stratification discussed in class. Details to follow.

Mid-term exam (25%)

Final exam (30%)- The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and a few short essays.

Please note, I do not accept assignments via email or in my mailbox. All assignments must be handed in in person, in class.

Grading: Personal emergencies, mechanical failures, and illnesses affect us all, often at the worst possible times. However, I must hold everyone in the class to the same standards. Late work loses 2 points per calendar day (regardless of the reason for

lateness). Missed exams and work not submitted by semester's end receives a grade of zero. I do not offer extra credit assignments; every student will be graded on the same basis for the same work. Therefore, be sure to plan ahead and begin your assignment well before their due dates. If you begin to fall behind in any of the course requirements, you should take action early on to remedy the situation rather than during the last week of classes when it's too late! Both Miami University and I take academic honesty very seriously. Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Please be familiar with Part V, Sections 01.501-502 of the Miami University Student handbook regarding academic integrity.

A	92-100
A-	90-91
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B-	80-81
C+	78-79
C	72-77
C-	70-71
D+	68-69
D	62-67
D-	60-61
F	59 and below

Contact: The best way to contact me is via email. My address is lippmas@muohio.edu, and I check this frequently throughout the day. Also, feel free to call me in my office.

I can also be reached during my office hours. If these times are not convenient, I am happy to set up another time that works better for you. I encourage you to make use of my office hours to raise specific questions or concerns you have about the class as they arise. Don't wait until it's too late!!! Also, feel free to stop by and chat about anything that's on your mind.

We will be conducting a lot of course business via blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with this resource and check it out regularly.

SCHEDULE

What is social stratification?

Monday, January 8—Course Introduction

Wednesday, January 10—Basic Processes in Social Stratification

Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E Moore. "Some Principles of Stratification" pp. 55-63 in **Grusky**

Seymour Martin Lipset, Reinhardt Bendix, and Hans L. Zetterberg.

"Social Mobility in Industrial Society." Pp. 309-318 in **Grusky**

Friday, January 12—Basic Processes in Social Stratification (Con't)

Peter Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan. "The Process of Stratification."

pp. 390-403 in **Grusky**
Featherman and Hauser. "A Refined Model of Occupational Mobility."
pp. 325-334 in **Grusky**

Monday, January 15—NO CLASS, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Dimensions of Inequality

Wednesday, January 17— Social Class, the Marxian View

Karl Marx. "Classes in Capitalism and Pre-Capitalism," "Ideology and Social Class," Value and Surplus Value" pp. 91-105 in **Grusky**

Erik Olin Wright. "A General Framework for the Analysis of Class Structure." Pp 116-128 in **Grusky**

Friday, January 19— Social Class, Alternatives to Marx

Anthony Giddens, "The Class Structure of the Advanced Societies."
pp. 152-162 in **Grusky**

Frank Parkin. "Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique."
pp. 162-177 in **Grusky**

David Grusky and Jesper Sorensen. "Are There Big Social Classes?"
pp. 183-194 in **Grusky**

Monday, January 22— Socioeconomic Status

Peter Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan. "Measuring the Status of Occupations." Pp. 255-259 in **Grusky**

John H. Goldthorpe and Keith Hope, "Occupational Grading and Occupational Prestige." Pp. 264-271 in **Grusky**

Donald Treiman. "Occupational Prestige in Comparative Perspective."
pp. 260-263 in **Grusky**

Wednesday, January 24— Wealth

Keister, Chapters 1-2

Friday, January 26—Wealth and Wealth Mobility

Keister, Chapters 3-4

Monday, January 29— Wealth and Wealth Mobility (Con't)

Keister, Chapters 5-6

Wednesday, January 31— The Power Elite

C. Wright Mills. "The Power Elite." Pp. 202-211 in **Grusky**.

Friday, February 2— The Power Elite (con't)

Michael Useem. "The Inner Circle." Pp. 223-232 in **Grusky**.

G. William Domhoff. "The Corporate Community and the Upper Class."
Chapter 3 in *Who Rules America? Power, Politics and Social Change*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing. **(BB)**

Monday, February 5— Race and Ethnicity

Edna Bonacich. A Theory of Ethnic Antagonism: The Split Labor Market.” Pp. 555-567 in **Grusky**.

Wednesday, February 7— Race and Ethnicity (Con’t)

Charles Hirschman and C. Matthew Snipp. “The State of the American Dream: Race and Ethnic Socioeconomic Inequality in the United States, 1970-1990.” Pp. 623-635 in **Grusky**.

Roger Waldinger. “Still the Promised City? African-Americans and New Immigrants in Post-Industrial New York.” Pp. 592-596 in **Grusky**.

Friday, February 9— Race and Ethnicity (Con’t)

William Julius Wilson. “The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions.” Pp. 611-622 in **Grusky**.

Herbert J. Gans. “The Possibility of a New Racial Hierarchy in the Twenty-first-century United States.” Pp. 642-650 in **Grusky**.

Monday, February 12— Gender

Padavic and Reskin, preface and Chapter 1

Wednesday, February 14— Gender (Con’t)

Padavic and Reskin, Chapters 2 and 3

Friday, February 16— Gender (Con’t)

Padavic and Reskin, Chapters 4 and 5

Tuesday, February 20— Gender (Con’t)

Padavic and Reskin, Chapters 6 and 7

Wednesday, February 21— Family

Dalton Conley. “Inequality Starts at Home.” Pp. 3-29 in *The Pecking Order*. New York: Vintage. 2004. **(BB)**

Friday, February 23— Rural and Urban Poverty

Douglas S. Massey and Nancy A. Denton. “American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass.” Pp. 660-671 in **Grusky**.

Monday, February 26— Midterm

Stratification and Social Institutions

Wednesday, February 28— Education

Christopher Jencks, et al. "Inequality: A Reassessment of the Effect of Family and Schooling in America." Pp. 403-409 in **Grusky**.

William Sewell, et al. "The Educational Process and Early Occupational Attainment Process." Pp. 410-420 in **Grusky**.

Adam Gamoran. 2001. "American Schooling and Educational Inequality: A Forecast for the 21st Century." *Sociology of Education*. Extra Issue: 135-153. **(BB)**

Friday, March 1— Education (Con't)

Kozol, Chapters 1-2

Monday, March 4— Education (Con't)

Kozol, Chapters 3-4

Wednesday, March 6— Education (Con't)

Kozol, Chapters 5-6

Friday, March 8— Education (Con't)

Diane F. Halpern and Mary L. LaMay. 2000. "The Smarter Sex: A Critical Review of Sex Differences in Intelligence." *Educational Psychology Review*. 12: 229-246. **(BB)**

Monday, March 11—No Class, Spring Break

Wednesday, March 13—No Class, Spring Break

Friday, March 15—No Class, Spring Break

Monday, March 18— The State

Jacob S. Hacker. "Introduction" to *The Divided Welfare State*. New York: Cambridge University Press. **(BB)**

Wednesday, March 20— The State (Con't)

Jacob Hacker. Chapter 1 of *The Divided Welfare State*. New York: Cambridge University Press. **(BB)**

Friday, March 22—Health and Healthcare

James House, Paula M. Lantz, and Pamela Herd. 2005. "Continuity and Change in the Social Stratification of Aging and Health Over the Life Course: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Longitudinal Study From 1986-2001/2002 (Americans' Changing Lives Study)" *Journals of Gerontology: Series B* 60B (Special Issue 2): 15-26.

Monday, March 25—Health and Healthcare (Con't)

Kate W. Strully and Dalton Conley. 2004. "Reconsidering Risk: Adapting Public Policies to Intergenerational Determinants of Biosocial Interactions in Health-Related Risks." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*. 29: 1073-1107. (BB)

Stratification and Economic Processes

Wednesday, March 27—Labor Market Segmentation

Michael Reich, David M. Gordon, and Richard Edwards. 1973. "A Theory of Labor Market Segmentation." *The American Economic Review*. 63: 359-365. (BB)

Friday, March 29—Deindustrialization

Barry Bluestone and Richard Harrison. 1982. Chapters 1 and 2 of *The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closings, Community Abandonment, and the Dismantling of Basic Industry*. New York: Basic Books. (BB)

Monday, April 2—The Effect of Deindustrialization

William Julius Wilson. "Jobless Poverty: A New Form of Social Dislocation in the Inner-City Ghetto." Pp. 651-659 in **Grusky**.

Wednesday, April 4—A New Economic Order?

Richard Florida. 2002. Chapters 1 and 4 of *The Rise of the Creative Class...and How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community, and Everyday Life*. New York: Basic Books. (BB)

Friday, April 6—Worker Risks and Employment Flexibility

Arne L. Kalleberg. 2003. "Flexible Firms and Labor Market Segmentation." *Work and Occupations*. 30: 154-175. (BB)

Monday, April 9—Worker Risks and Employment Flexibility

Katherine S. Newman. 1999. Chapters 1 and 2 of *Falling From Grace: Downward Mobility in an Age of Affluence*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. (BB)

Wednesday, April 11—Contingent Work

Arne L. Kalleberg. 2000. "Nonstandard Employment Relations: Part-time, Temporary, and Contract Work." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 26: 341-365. (BB)

Global Dimensions of Inequality

Friday, April 13—A brief history of globalization

Thomas Friedman. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* (BB)

Monday, April 16—No Class

Wednesday, April 18—The World System

Immanuel Wallerstein. "Class Conflict in the Capitalist World Economy."
pp. 129-131 in **Grusky**

Friday, April 20—

Alan Kerckhoff. 1995. "Institutional Arrangements and Stratification
Processes in Industrial Societies." *Annual Review of Sociology*.
21: 323-347. **(BB)**

Monday, April 23—

Glenn Firebaugh. 2000. "The Trend in Between-Nation Income
Inequality." *Annual Review of Sociology*. 26: 323-339. **(BB)**

Term paper due

Wednesday, April 25—The future of stratification and inequality

Daniel Bell. "The Coming of Post-industrial Society." Pp. 805-817 in
Grusky

Alvin Gouldner. "The Future of Intellectuals and the Rise of the New
Class." Pp. 817-830 in **Grusky**

John W. Meyer. "The Evolution of Modern Stratification Systems." Pp.
881-890 in **Grusky**

Friday, April 27—Review and wrap up

Tuesday, May 1—Final Exam, 7:30 AM