

Soc 295: Stratification, Winter 2017

Thursday, 3:20-6pm, SS&H 1291

** Please note the class starts at 3:20pm instead of 3:10pm, because I teach a class across campus until 3pm.

Professor:

Prof. Ryan Finnigan

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Office Hours:

SS&H 2259

Tues. 11am-1pm, and by appointment

Course Description: This course provides a survey of notable foundational and contemporary studies of stratification. Paired weeks will address a topical area within stratification (e.g., class/mobility, poverty, race/ethnicity, gender). Hopefully, these pairings help characterize (a small part of) the broad sociological literature within each area. The readings can also provide a partial foundation for a qualifying exam in stratification.

Required Reading: Books listed as “required” will be available for order from the [Avid Reader](#) in downtown Davis. Orders may take from 2 to 10 days, and more information is available in a document on Canvas. Used versions may be available cheaper on Amazon.

Evaluation:

Weekly reviews: 80%

Extended review: 20%

The bulk of the evaluation for the course is based on **weekly 500 word evaluations** of the required readings. These evaluations should be modeled after book reviews in the *American Journal of Sociology* or *Contemporary Sociology*. The reviews will be evaluated for how rigorously they evaluate the works’ substantive focus, theory, and empirics. As with published book reviews, they should also briefly summarize the book or collection of articles they critique and be well written. The evaluations may also cite relevant supporting material where it is warranted. Everyone can opt out of writing one review, but should still do the reading. No written reviews are required for the first week, leaving eight total reviews for the quarter.

The reviews are **due electronically by 9 am of the Wednesday** before the class covering that reading. If you are opting out of a week’s review, please let me know by email before the due date. The course site on Canvas will have a corresponding “assignment.” Please submit your review in Microsoft Word format with the filename `lastname_week#.doc` (for example, `finnigan_week1.doc`).

I’ll compile a handout with excerpts from everyone’s reviews, sorted into common themes. The handouts will structure our course discussion, hopefully ensuring all important aspects of the topic are covered and all voices in the class are heard.

These reviews are challenging to write. The requirements to both summarize and evaluate multiple aspects of a book with insightful critiques are seemingly at odds. However, the constraints imposed on these evaluations are similar to those in academic publishing. The ability to reduce length without sacrificing content is difficult to master (I certainly haven't), but invaluable. As George Bernard Shaw reportedly wrote, "I'm sorry this letter is so long. If I had more time I would have written a shorter letter."

The other major portion of the course grade (20%) is a **1,500 word extended review** evaluating one of the required readings. The extended review is **due 9am, Wednesday, March 22**. The goal of the extended review is to provide a fuller evaluation of the work's contribution to its area, particularly in the context of related research. These reviews should also incorporate additional sources, including but not limited to the other required and related readings in that area. The extended review may include some material from the previous weekly review you've written, but should largely be original writing contextualizing that work.

First-Year Sociology PhD Students will be required to include the extended review paper, and three weekly reviews of their choosing in their end-of-year portfolio.

Final Grades:

A+ 96.7-100	B+ 86.7-89.9	C+ 76.7-79.9	D+ 66.7-69.9	F below 60
A 93.4-96.6	B 83.4-86.6	C 73.4-76.6	D 63.4-66.6	
A- 90-93.3	B- 80-83.3	C- 70-73.3	D- 60-63.3	

Course Expectations:

- **Attendance:** Please attend all course meetings, and let me know in advance if you cannot.
- **Reading:** Please read all "required" items, even when not writing a review for that week.
- **Academic Integrity:** You are responsible for your own work, so please don't plagiarize.
- **Communication:** I check email pretty regularly, but can get bogged down. If I haven't replied to your email after a couple days, please follow up. Lengthier questions are better addressed in person than email.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule and assigned readings are subject to revision throughout the quarter.

Week 1 (Jan 12): Perspectives on Ascriptive Inequality

** No weekly review required for week 1 **

Required:

- [Ridgeway, Cecilia. 2014. "Why Status Matters for Inequality." *American Sociological Review* 79\(1\):1-16.](#)
- [Leicht, Kevin. 2016. "Getting Serious about Inequality." *The Sociological Quarterly* 57\(2\): 211-231.](#)

Related:

- Tilly, Charles. 1999. *Durable Inequality*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Massey, Douglas. 2007. *Categorically Unequal: The American Stratification System*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Week 2 (Jan 19): Class & Mobility

Required:

- Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life, with an Update a Decade Later*. Berkeley, CA: California University Press.

Related:

- Wright, Erik Olin. 1996. *Class Counts*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bowles, Samuel, Herbert Gintis, Melissa Osborne Groves (eds). 2005. *Unequal Chances: Family Background and Economic Success*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Breen, Richard and Jon O. Jonsson. 2005. "Inequality of Opportunity in Comparative Perspective: Recent Research on Educational Attainment and Social Mobility." *Annual Review of Sociology* 31: 223-243.

Week 3 (Jan 26): Class & Mobility

Required:

- Rivera, Lauren. 2015. *Pedigree: How Elite Students Get Elite Jobs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Related:

- Weeden, Kim, and David Grusky. 2005. "The Case for a New Class Map." *American Journal of Sociology* 111: 141-212.
- Torche, Florencia 2011. "Is a College Degree Still the Great Equalizer? Intergenerational Mobility across Levels of Schooling in the US" *American Journal of Sociology* 117(3): 763-807.
- Khan, Shamus. 2012. *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Week 4 (Feb 2): Poverty

Required:

- Katz, Michael. 2013. *The Undeserving Poor: America's Enduring Confrontation with Poverty*, 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Related:

- Quadagno, Jill. 1994. *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gilens, Martin. 2005. *Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverty Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Brady, David. 2009. *Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 5 (Feb 9): Poverty

Required:

- Edin, Kathryn, and H. Luke Shaefer. 2015. *\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Related:

- Desmond, Matthew. 2016. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Newman, Katherine. 1999. *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Edin, Kathryn, and Laura Lein. 1997. *Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Week 6 (Feb 16): Race/Ethnicity

Required:

- Wilson, William J. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Related:

- Massey, Douglas, and Nancy Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Duneier, Mitch. 2016. *Ghetto: The Invention of a Place, the History of an Idea*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux.
- Sharkey, Patrick. 2013. *Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 7 (Feb 23): Race/Ethnicity

Required:

- Pattillo, Mary. 1999. *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril among the Black Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Related:

- Pattillo, Mary. 2007. *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Haynes, Bruce. 2001. *Red Lines, Black Spaces: The Politics of Race and Space in a Black Middle-Class Suburb*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

- Hunter, Marcus. 2013. *Black Citymakers: How the Philadelphia Negro Changed Urban America*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 8 (Mar 2): Gender

Required:

- Nakano Glenn, Evelyn. 2002. *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor*. Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press.

Related:

- Harvey Wingfield, Adia. 2008. *Doing Business with Beauty: Black Women, Hair Salons, and the Racial Enclave Economy*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought*, 2nd ed. Boston: Unwin Hyman.
- McCall, Leslie. 2005. "The Complexity of Intersectionality." *Signs* 30:1771-1800.

Week 9 (Mar 9): Gender

Required:

- Ridgeway, Cecilia. 2011. *Framed by Gender: How Gender Inequality Persists in the Modern World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Related:

- West, Candace and Don H. Zimmerman, 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society* 1(2):125-151.
- Acker, Joan. 2006. "Inequality Regimes: Gender, Class, and Race in Organizations" *Gender & Society* 20(4): 441-464.
- Shilt, Kristen. 2010. *Just One of the Guys? Transgender Men and the Persistence of Gender Inequality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 10 (Mar 16): Development

Required:

- Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Knopf.

Related:

- Krishna, Anirudh. 2010. *One Illness Away*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Collier, Paul. 2006. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mahoney, James. 2010. *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development*. Cambridge University Press.