"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

Of Course
Social Stratification and Inequality
Sociology 441 (section WB51) Online
Winter 2016
University of Maryland, College Park

Help Me
I am interested in learning what you think I should do to improve this course and 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, please 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, social inequality, 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 social class? How do you describe and explain social
inequality and social class? How and why does inequality change? What is the source and
distribution of class, power, property, prestige, mobility, and poverty?
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
Common Reading
This course features two books and eleven articles. The books are available at the University Book Center and from online vendors. The articles are available on Elms/Canvas.

The books are:

The articles are:

Audios:
- Billie Holiday "God Bless the Child"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_1LfT1MvzI
- Huddie Ledbetter "Bourgeois Blues"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6aH1N3wKI
- Peggy Lee "Is That All There Is?"
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VscVP_Gt_s

Videos:
- Streamed from the Library
  - "Class Clowns" (Class Dismissed) 15
  - "Inequality for All" 90
Available on the WorldWideWeb

"Income Inequality: Johnston Interview 13
www.pbs.org/now/shows/332/index.html

"Income Inequality: Shulman Interview" 13
www.pbs.org/now/shows/332/index.html

"The Truth about the Economy" 3
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtzmqm2twqe

"Who Owns Our Government?" 35
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvXaLqKWUgo

Available on my SocheProfessor YouTube Channel and Elms/Canvas

"Blue-collar in a White-collar World" 10
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsdrUBN5EsO

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

"Career Colleges" 14
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-6s5K45BTk

"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=BM3Ru83BfO1

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

Poverty and Pickle Pickers" 5
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fIO2Vrg0pU

"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=omtWalntg6E

Elms/Canvas
Your source for:

Campus Stories, Class Photos, Grades, Modules (includes Assignments, Gazettes, PowerPoint Lectures, Readings, Videos), 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/
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

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

Graded Assignments
Modules are available at 6:00 a.m. each day and must be completed before 6:00 a.m. the following day. There is a graded assignment at the end of each module. Eleven assignments each count three percent of your final grade in the course. Two paper assignments each count 10 percent of your final grade in the course. The final exam counts 47 percent of your final grade in the course. All 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 schedule for this course is:

- A+ = 98
- A = 95%
- A- = 92%
- B+ = 88%
- B = 85%
- B- = 82%
- C+ = 78%
- C = 75%
- C- = 72%
- D+ = 68%
- D = 65%
- D- = 62%
- F = Oh No!

Know No
This course does not provide extra-credit assignments.

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

Here I Am
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Course Calendar
 MODULE 1: SOCIAL HIERARCHY
Question: How is social stratification part of your own life experience?
Lecture: Status Stratification in Everyday Life
Gazette: Social Hierarchy
Reading: Henley, “Sex, Power, and Nonverbal Communication”
MODULE 2: SOCIAL EQUALITY
Question: What is social equality?
Lecture: The Meaning of Social Equality
Gazette: Social Equality
Reading: Vonnegut, “Harrison Bergeron”

MODULE 3: WHAT MARX SAID
Question: How did Marx explain social stratification and inequality?
Lecture: Marx Theory of Social Stratification
Gazette: What Marx Said
Question: What is the relevance of ideology for understanding structured inequality?
Lecture: Ideology and Stratification
Gazette: Ideology
Video: "Feminism"

MODULE 4: WHAT CLASS IS
Question: What is the basis of class position?
Lecture: The Working Class Majority
Gazette: What Class Is
Video: "Social Class in America"
"Bourgeois Blues"
"Upper Class Wasps"
"Class Clowns"
Audio: Ledbetter, “Bourgeois Blues”

MODULE 5: THE CLASS DIVIDE
Question: Is America a Middle Class Society?
Lecture: The Middle Class Middle Mass Myth
Gazette: The Class Divide
Reading: Lareau, “Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black & White Families”
Video: “Blue Collar in a White Collar World”

MODULE 6: SOCIAL MOBILITY
Question: How much social mobility is there and what causes it?
Lecture: The Pattern and Causes of Structural Mobility
Gazette: Social Mobility
Focus Questions for The Pecking Order
Reading: Conley, The Pecking Order

UNIT 7: THE GREAT RECOVERY
Question: How did America Recover from the Great Depression?
Lecture: A Rising Tide Lifts all Boats
Gazette: The Great Recovery
Reading: Greenhouse, “The Rise and Fall of the Social Contract”
Video: "The Great Depression"
"The Great Recovery"
"The Post-war Boom"
MODULE 8: THE GREAT U-TURN
Question: What caused the great u-turn?
Lecture: Technology, Globalization, and Politics
Gazette: The Great U-turn
Reading: Greenhouse, “The Vise Tightens”
        Greenhouse, “Wal-Mart, the Low-wage Colossus”
Video: “Income Inequality: Shulman Interview” (second 13 minutes)
        “The Truth about the Economy”

MODULE 9: INEQUALITY FOR ALL
Question: How and why has class inequality increased in recent decades?
Lecture: Earnings, Income, and Wealth
Gazette: Money, Money, Money
Reading: Davis and Moore, “Some Principles of Stratification”
Video: “Income Inequality: Johnston Interview” (first 13 minutes)
        “Inequality for All”

MODULE 10: POWER AND POLITICS
Gazette: Power
Video: “Who Owns Our Government”
&
Question: How and why does Political Participation Vary by Class?
Lecture: Class and Politics
Gazette: Politics
Video: “Under the Influence”

MODULE 11: LIVING POORLY
Question: What is it like to live poorly?
Lecture: Living Poorly
Gazette: Focus Questions for Tell Them Who I Am
Reading: Liebow, Tell Them Who I Am

MODULE 12: WHY IS THERE POVERTY?
Question: What determines the rate of poverty and what determines who will be poor?
Lecture: Subculture or Political Economy
Gazette: Why Poverty
Reading: Williamson, “The White Ghetto”
        Wilson, “Societal Changes and Vulnerable Neighborhoods”
Video: “Poverty and Pickle Pickers”
MODULE 13: REDUCING POVERTY
Question: How can we reduce the rate of poverty?
Lecture: Reducing the Poverty Rate
Gazette: Reducing Poverty
Reading: Berg, “Rich Man’s Qualifications for Poor Man’s Jobs”
Video: “Career Colleges”

MODULE 14: FINAL EXAM
Question: What did we learn?
Lecture: Course Review
Audio: Lee, “Is That All There Is?”

The Itch of Ignorance is a Gift