Sociology 6070: Seminar in Social Stratification

Spring, 2015

Class times: Tuesdays, 2:10-4pm
402 IAB

Instructor: Thomas A. DiPrete
Office location: 601B Knox Hall

Email: tad61@columbia.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, 4-6pm and by appointment

Course Description:

This is an advanced level graduate seminar in social stratification. The course focuses on relatively recent research, and is intended to introduce you to many of the major themes and findings in this area. As many of the central questions in higher education research are now active research sites for researchers in other social sciences as well as in sociology, the literature on this reading list is interdisciplinary whenever appropriate.

The reading list is long because this area of sociology (and more broadly in the social sciences) is huge. To make the list manageable (and to make sure that some people in the room are conversant with the various readings) we’ll divide up the reading assignments into students organized in groups. Groups will be expected to meet outside of class to discuss readings so that the time spent in class can benefit from these preparations. Parts of the classes will be organized by students. Student teams will be responsible for preparing discussion questions regarding the assigned readings in advance, providing a short introductory presentation about the readings, and run part of the discussion. I will of course play an active role co-leading with the teams, participating in the discussion or lecturing as appropriate to make class time as productive as possible.

You are also expected to complete a term paper (of roughly 20 pages) by the end of the spring semester. I suggest that you choose one of three formats for your term paper:

1. An original research paper on a topic of interest to you. This might serve as the basis for an MA thesis, a journal submission, or a chapter of your dissertation.

2. A detailed proposal for a research project, including an extensive and critical review of the existing literature on the topic. This might serve as the basis for a grant proposal to support your dissertation research or future work.

3. A thorough analysis of the literature in a specific area (including both the readings from the syllabus and additional readings) in which you lay out the key issues, the primary arguments and perspectives, and critically assess the various contributions to the literature. This might serve as excellent preparation for the prelim exam in stratification or the sociology of education.
The prepared class presentations will contribute 25% of the grade, the term paper will contribute 65% of the grade, and class participation will contribute the final 10% of the grade for this course.

Grading

The prepared class presentations will contribute 30% of the grade, the term paper will contribute 60% of the grade, and class participation will contribute the final 10% of the grade for this course.

Class Calendar: Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Income Inequality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Rich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poverty and the Welfare State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Intergenerational Mobility: Occupations/Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Intergenerational Mobility: Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Parental Effects: Twins &amp; Sibling Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Parental Investment &amp; Socialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Social Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Education &amp; Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Life Course Mobility/Labor Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Welfare State &amp; the labor Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Introduction: Some framing readings

- Treiman. “Occupational Prestige in Comparative Perspective.” (Grusky Reader)
2 Income Inequality

2.1 Concepts, Measurement, Disciplinary Perspectives, and Trends

- Income Inequality in OECD Countries Tim Smeeding (Syracuse University) and Andrea Brandolini (Banca d’Italia). Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality. (courseworks)

2.2 Explanations

2.3 The Rich (or, Inequality, Part II)

2.3.1 Description


2.3.2 Explanation

2.4 Poverty & the Welfare State


3 Intergenerational Mobility & Status Attainment

3.1 Levels & Trends.

3.1.1 Education and Occupation/Class Mobility

- Ganzeboom, Luijkx and Treiman “Intergenerational Class Mobility in Comparative Perspective,” Research in Social Stratification and Mobility. 1989. 8:3-84.

3.1.2 Income Mobility

- Generational Income Mobility in North America and Europe, edited by Miles Corak. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Intergenerational Economic Inequality Anders Bjorklund (Stockholm University) and Markus Jäntti (UNU WIDER). Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality. 2009
4.1 Parental Effects and other findings from Twins and Sibling Studies


4.2 Parental Investment, Socialization, and Cultural Capital


4.3 Parents and Social Capital.


4.4 Parents and Wealth


4.5 Education, Schools & PreSchools


### 4.6 Neighborhoods and Geography


5 Intragenerational Mobility

5.1 Life Course Mobility and the Labor Market


• Intragenerational Inequality and Intertemporal Mobility Rich Burkhauser (Cornell) and Ken Couch (University of Connecticut) . *Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality*. 2009.


5.2 The Welfare State and the Labor Market


6 Group-Level Stratification Processes

6.1 Gender


### 6.2 Race and Ethnicity


### 7 Other World Areas

#### 7.1 East Asia


• Wu, Xiaogang; Treiman, Donald J, *Demography*, 2004, 41, 2, May, 363-384. Chinese Social Stratification and Social Mobility


### 7.2 Latin America

• Torche, Florencia, 2005. “Unequal but Fluid: Social Mobility in Chile in Comparative Perspective.” *American Sociological Review*, 70:422-450


• Nunez, Javier and Leslie Miranda. 2006. Recent Findings on Intergenerational Income and Educational Mobility in Chile. Mimeo, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile.
