SOCIOMETRY 5310:
Stratification

This course provides you with the tools to analyze and understand processes of stratification fundamental to human organization. We’ll pay particular attention to the institutions undergirding inequality in modern America, with a special focus on recent trends. To accomplish all this during our fifteen weeks together, we will survey many of the major readings in stratification across the disciplines, and introduce you to the various approaches and topics covered by contemporary stratification scholars.

Course assignment schedule:

Assignment #1: In-class presentation / discussion / memo

Lead the class by presenting and fielding questions about one of the assigned readings. You should aim for a 10 minute presentation. Additionally, please turn in a 3-page critical synopsis of the reading you present on the day of your presentation.

Due date: TBA

Assignment #2: Critical analysis memo

Prepare a 6-7 page memo that critically analyzes two or more approaches to stratification research. You should aim to compare and contrast at least two of the readings covered in the course. More details to follow in class.

Due date: TBA

Assignment #3: Front-end of a journal article / grant proposal assignment

Write the front end of a journal article (10 to 11 pages) based on the themes covered in this course. You may draw upon your own existing research agenda (effectively altered based on what we have covered in class), Assignment #2, or something entirely new. More details to follow in class.

Due date: TBA

Breakdown of final grades:
Assignment #1: 15%
Assignment #2: 25%
Assignment #3: 40%
Participation: 20%
Stratification

Note: All of the journal articles can be downloaded from the Washington University library website, or from most social science search engines. You are free to purchase any of the books we’ll read selections from (especially Massey’s *Categorically Unequal*, and Wilson’s *The Truly Disadvantaged*), but I’ll post copies of these and all other readings preceded by an asterisk on the course website.

**Week 1: The New Inequality, take 1**

*Tues Jan 17*  
- Reading Assignments:

- Recommended readings:

**Week 2: The New Inequality, take 2**

*Tues Jan 24*  
- Reading Assignments:

**Week 3: Basic Principles of Social Stratification**

*Tues Jan 31*  
- Reading Assignments:


**Recommended readings:**


**Week 4: The Legacy of Marx and Modern Class Analysis**

**Tues Feb 7**

- Reading Assignments:


• Recommended readings:


Week 5: The Weberian Critique

Tues Feb 14

• Reading Assignments:


• Recommended reading:

**Week 6: Race and Ethnicity, part 1:**

**Tues Feb 21**  
- Reading Assignments:


- Recommended readings:
  


**Week 7: Race and Ethnicity, part 2:**

**Tues Feb 28**  
- Reading Assignments:


**Week 8: Race and Ethnicity, part 3**
Tues Mar 7  • Reading Assignments:


• Recommended readings:


**Week 9: Breakin’**

Tues Mar 14  • NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

**Week 10: Gender and Social Stratification, part 1**

Tues Mar 21  • Reading Assignments:


• Recommended readings:


Week 11: Gender and Social Stratification, part 2

Tues Mar 28  • Reading Assignments:


Week 12: Schools and Stratification

Tues Apr 4  • Reading Assignments:


• Recommended readings:


Week 13: Institutionalist Accounts, part 1
**Tues Apr 11**  
• Reading Assignments:


• *Recommended readings:*


**Week 14: Institutionalist Accounts, part 2**

**Tues Apr 18**  
• Reading Assignments:


**Week 15: Comparative Welfare State Research**

**Tues Apr 25**  
• Reading Assignments:


*Recommended readings:*


**Final Exam Week** (May 4-10)

*Tue May 9*  
*Research project proposal due at 5pm*