

Selected Topics in Social Structure: Social Stratification

Soc 510B

Spring 2002

**Michèle Lamont
Department of Sociology
Princeton University**

Practical information:

We will be meeting on Tuesdays between 2:30 and 5:30 in Wallace 190. If you wish to meet with me outside seminar hours, please contact me at mlamont@princeton.edu.

Objectives:

This seminar will provide an introduction to the study of the cultural dimensions of class and racial inequality. We will discuss central topics in the field, primarily through a close reading of several recent ethnographic and interview-based studies. We will give particular consideration to methodological issues and to the definition of a cumulative research agenda in the field.

Course requirements:

- 1) Two memos on weekly readings (to be selected at the end of the first session). These memos, of a maximum length of five pages (double-space), should be emailed to all seminar participants at least 24 hours prior to our meetings. They should raise substantive and critical issues to be discussed in class (40% of final grade.)
- 2) One class presentation (20% of final grade each).
- 3) A five-page final paper outlining a research agenda that builds on the problems discussed in this course (due May 10) (20% of final grade).
- 4) Participation and preparedness. You are expected to be an active seminar participant and to come to meetings fully prepared according to graduate school standards (20% of final grade).

Readings:

Weekly readings will be made available in a box located in the mailroom of the sociology department. The following books are available at the U-Store.

Stephen Cornell and David Hartman, 1998. *Ethnicity and Race. Making Identities in a Changing World*. Pine Forge Press.

Mitchell Duneier, 1999. *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux.

Michele Lamont, 2000. *The Dignity of Working Men*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Mary Waters, 1999. *Black Identity. West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Meeting #1 (March 26): Whither Class Analysis?

David B. Grusky and Jesper B. Sorensen. 1998. "Can Class Analysis be Salvaged?" *American Journal of Sociology* 103 (March) : 1187-1234.

Alejandro Portes, 2001. "The Resilient Importance of Class: A Nominalist Interpretation" *Political Power and Social Theory*, 14: 249-284.

Michael Burawoy and Erik Olin Wright, 2001. "Sociological Marxism." Pp. 459-486 in *Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by Jonathan H. Turner. New York: Plenum.

Optional:

D. B. Grusky, K. A. Wendeen, and J.B. Sorensen., 2000. "The Case for Realism in Class Analysis." *Political Power and Social Theory*, 14: 291-305.

Meeting # 2 (April 2): Racial and Ethnic Identity

Stephen Cornell and David Hartman, 1998. *Ethnicity and Race. Making Identities in a Changing World*. Pine Forge Press. Chapters 3, 4, and 6.

Rogers Brubaker, forthcoming. "Ethnicity without Groups." *Archives europeennes de sociologie*..

Jocelyn A. Hollander and Judith A. Howard, 2000. "Social Psychological Theories on Social Inequality. *Social Psychology Quarterly*" 63 (4):: 338-351.

Suggested:

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. Second Edition. New York: Routledge.

Richard Jenkins, 1996. *Social Identity*. London; New York: Routledge.

Paul Gilroy, 2000. *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Cecilia L. Ridgeway, 2001. 'Inequality, Status, and the Construction of Status Beliefs.' *Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by Jonathan H. Turner. New York: Plenum, pp. 323-352.

Meeting #3 (April 9): Immigrant Identities

Mary Waters, 1999. *Black Identities. West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1, 3, 4, 8 and 9

Alejandro Portes and Ruben G. Rumbaut, 2001. *Legacies. The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Chapters 2, 3, 7, and 10.

Suggested readings:

Richard Alba and Victor Nee. 1997. "Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration." *International Migration Review* 31: 826-74.

Peggy Levitt, 2001. *The Transnational Villagers*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Meeting #4 (April 16): Beyond the Culture of Poverty

Mitchell Duneier, 1999. *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux. Introduction, Parts 2 and 3.

Alford Young, Forthcoming. *The Mind of Black Men*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Selection.

Suggested:

David A. Snow and Leon Anderson, 1987. "Identity Work Among the Homeless" *AJS* 92:1336-1371.

Jay MacLeod, 1995. *Ain't No Making It: Ascriptions and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein, 1997. *Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Sudhir Venkatesh, 2000. *American Project: The Rise and Fall of the Modern Ghetto*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

April 19-20: Conference on "Race/Ethnicity, Self/ Culture, and Inequality"

Meeting #5 (April 23): Understanding Class Cultures

Michele Lamont, 2000. *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press and New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Suggested:

Fantasia, Rick. 1989. *Cultures of Solidarity: Consciousness, Action, and Contemporary American Workers*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Paul Kingston, 2000. *The Classless Society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Willis, Paul. 1977. *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs*. NY: Columbia Univ. Press.

Meeting #6 (April 30): Intra-Racial Class Differences: the Case of African-Americans

John Jackson. 2001. *Harlem World. Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction and Chapters 2, 3, and 5.

Mary Patillo-McCoy, 2000. *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril Among the Black Middle Class*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 8.

Suggested:

Jennifer Hochschild, 1995. *Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class, and the Soul of the Nation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.