Selected Topics in Social Structure: Social Stratification

Soc 510B

Spring 2002

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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.


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


Optional:


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


Suggested:


**Meeting #3 (April 9): Immigrant Identities**


**Suggested readings:**


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


**Suggested:**


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

Meeting #5 (April 23): Understanding Class Cultures


Suggested:


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


Suggested: