Soc 1 Study Guide: Second Half of the Course

February 10th Lecture 5. Individual, Institutional & Duality Approaches to Social Class

Key Concepts

- Approaches to social class
- Individual Centered Approach
- Institutional Centered Approach
- Duality Approach
- Class distinctions based on Distinctions: Hierarchy, Power, Wealth, Work, Health & Opportunity
- Statistics on Inequality in the U.S.
  - Distribution of U.S. wealth
  - Poverty by ethnic/racial & men/women/children/female headed households
  - Americans that have experienced poverty
- Statistics on Inequality in U.S. Compared to Other Nations
  - Per capita income
  - Wealth owned by richest 10% of population
  - Gap between high income and low income individuals
  - Poverty rate: total, children, and elderly
  - Children in poverty
  - Poverty after taxes and transfers
  - Infant mortality
  - Labor unions
  - Cost of labor
  - Vacation time
  - Tax as GNP
  - Resources devoted to government social programs
  - Adult literacy
  - Job training, help
  - Imprisonment
- Statistics on Inequality in U.S. Over Time
  - The Long Gilded Age, The Great Compression, Middle Class America, Middle Class America, The Great Divergence
  - Top decile income share
  - Inequality Rising
  - Income growth by groups during different presidencies
  - Income Groups
  - CEO pay vs. average wages
  - Income shares
  - Federal tax rates
  - Earned income tax credit and AFCD/TANF
- Spending on poor individuals
- Housing, high quality childcare, higher education, health insurance
- The dream divide
- Soaring college tuitions
- Job losses in recent recessions

• Individual Centered Approach
  - The Self made self
  - Survival of the fittest
  - Hard work, smarts, and gumption
  - Individuals make their own lives
  - Individuals make choices
  - Individuals have abilities resources
  - Competition between individuals
  - Brightest, hardest working, most moral, etc, succeed

• History of Individual-Centered Theories in America
  - No Aristocracy
  - The Frontier – Frederick Jackson Turner
  - Horatio Alger stories – ambition, hard work, ingenuity, talent, intelligence (I.Q.), motivation, industriousness, luck, etc.
  - Institutions have “moral authority”
  - America as the land of opportunity
  - Human Capital Theory (Gary Becker) – Cost of capital determines price
  - Worker’s Capital = Self investment
  - Stratification system is a rational market
  - Individuals responsible for own worth
  - Income structure reflects human capital structure
  - Cognitive Elite Theory (Hernstein & Murray)

• Fisher et. al. challenge Cognitive Elite Theory
  - Intelligence "g"–1 dimension or many?
  - Ability to rank people linearly is fallacious
  - No relationship I.Q. and later success (control for education
  - Much evidence that poverty varies by social policy

Key People
• Frederick Jackson Turner
• Horatio Alger
• Gary Becker
• Hernstein & Murray
• Fisher et. al.

February 12th Guest Lecture Prof. William Freudenberg, “Hell or High Water”

Human role in natural disasters
“Enduring Conflict”
Disproportional pollution
Basic Background (how hurricanes work, high ground next to rivers, “right hook”)
Government response and ordinary citizen response
What failed in Katrina?
FEMA response
Who was categorized as looters? Why?
Three clues for human involvement/interference
MR – GO (arguments for and against it)
Effect of MR – GO on natural environment
Economic success of MR - GO
Disaster vs. Tragedy
Circular liability
Who is rewarded with large development projects and who suffers?

**February 17th Lecture 6 Individual, Institutional & Duality Approaches to Social Class (cont)**

- Class differences involve distinctions in hierarchy, power, wealth, work, health, and opportunity
- Main point from all the statistics on inequality
  - Inequality in U.S. is high
  - Compared with other countries, inequality in the U.S. is high
  - It has been increasing over time.
- **Individual-centered** approach to inequality
  - Individuals have the capacity of act, and they have a moral responsibility for their acts
  - Social Darwinism
    - Herbert Spencer, “survival of the fittest”
      - According to Spencer, what is the role of poverty?
      - According to Spencer, what happens if we intervene?
  - American Exceptionalism
    - Frederick Jackson Turner, “frontier thesis”
      - Spirit and success of U.S. due to conditions of Western expansion
  - No aristocracy in U.S.
  - Calvinism and the Puritans
    - Moral worth defined by own behavior (and accumulation of wealth)
  - Ideological belief in the self
    - Horatio Alger
      - Stories about city boys who “pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps”
      - American beliefs about class
  - Human capital theory (Gary Becker)
  - Cognitive elite theory (Hernstein and Murray)
- **Institutional-centered** approach to inequality
Two ways that institutions matter:
- How institutions affect who gets what
- How institutions affect rewards for getting ahead

Macro-perspective on various forms of inequality
- Slavery: people as property
- Caste: religious/racial distinctions
- Estates/Feudal system: land ownership and accompanying legal distinctions
- Class: economic differences

Institutional theories of inequality
- Karl Marx
  - Focus on the mode of production (forces of production + relations of production)
  - Social class = relation to means of production
    - Bourgeoisie, petite-bourgeoisie, proletariat
  - Materialist theory of history
  - Capital as theft
  - Ideology
  - Critiques/Limitations
    - Keynesian economics
    - Role of labor unions
    - One-sided view of power
- Max Weber
  - Status groups – cultural distinctions, style of life, shared identity
  - Class – shared economically shaped “life chances”
- Pierre Bourdieu
  - Cultural capital, social capital
- Annette Lareau
  - Cultural repertoires
  - Transmission of differential advantages (concerted cultivation) vs. accomplishment of natural growth

February 19th Guest Lecture Prof. Flacks.
“The Sociology of Youth Culture.”

Youth engagement in both personal and public life

Students and youth have long history of challenging status quo. This can be traced back to the 19 Century revolutions.

Role of young people as a collective force.

1960’s student movements.
What are the limitations of youth and student movements? (There is a need to move beyond just talking about social movements)

The need to talk about technology and communication in youth and student movements.

What are other alternatives than just direct action?

Relationship between cultural change and youth.

Dick Flack’s worked on a UC system wide survey online to understand student life and participation. What were some of Flack’s findings?

Newspaper readership vs. online readership

What does Flacks means by “willed cluelessness”?

What are the upsides and downsides to technology?

What is the relationship between self-interest and activism?

What is participatory democracy?

Will the press become obsolete? Can people become the press?

What are some of the journalists’ contributions to press that ordinary people cannot offer?

How has the activism shifted from the 60’s to today (in terms of economic status)? Who was involved then and who is more involved now?

February 24th Guest Lecture Dean Melvin Oliver, “Black Wealth/White Wealth”

Wealth vs. Income

Covert/Institutional Racism

Does Race Disappear as societies industrialize? What did Marx, Durkheim and Weber think?

William Julius Wilson
February 26th Lecture 7, Guest Lecture by Clayton Childress, “The Sociology of Race”

Beverly Daniel Tatum’s experience teaching a class on race at UCSB
Racism as smog
The one-drop rule
Long distance running and the Kalenjin
Lumping and Splitting racial populations
Racialization
Genes and racial variation
Social Construction of Race
Ethnic Options
Colorblind Racism
Racial Categories across time and space
The Brain Rotting Properties of Privilege

Beverly Daniel Tatum
Omi & Winant
Audrey Lorde

March 3rd Lecture 8

Key Terms
• Deviance
• Crime
• Criminality
• Individual centered explanations of deviance
• Institutional centered explanations of deviance
• Cranioscopy, phrenology
• Social solidarity
• Rules
• Punishment
• System of torture
• System of social control
• Panopticon
• Prison System, Imprisonment as it pertains to a) Foucault’s work and b) America
• Labeling theory
• Primary deviance, secondary deviance
• Racial picture of imprisonment in America
• Drug use rates and criminalization across races ex: Crack vs. cocaine and race
• Class relationship to drug use, drug related crime, and imprisonment
• President Nixon’s “War on Drugs”
• Punishment and race
• Government spending on prisons, schools, and public assistance
• Three Strikes Law
• Sociological Imagination
• Private troubles vs. public issues

Key People
• Horatio Alger
• Franz Gall
• Cesare Lombroso
• Hernstein and Murray
• Emile Durkheim
• Michele Foucault
• Steven J. Gould
• Edwin Lemert
• C. Wright Mills