

Sociology 290  
Crises of Inequality  
Spring 2013 – Tuesdays, 4-6pm, 402 Barrows

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:00noon and 3:00pm-4:00pm (**but check web-site for updates**)

This course focuses on contemporary crises produced by and/or bearing on inequality. Some crises we treat are smoldering; others are urgent. Some are recognized as crises, others require some attention before the crisis aspect can be discerned. We will treat issues around family formation, discrimination, poverty, welfare states, global stratification/inequality, individual and national debt, exploitation, and implications of environmental conditions and resource depletion. Students will write a research proposal or empirical research paper bearing on some crisis of inequality/stratification.

### **Attendance**

It should go without saying that students should not make travel plans that interfere with class activities.

### **Reading Materials**

Most of the reading is available via JSTOR or Google Scholar. Articles on JSTOR are noted in the syllabus with a bold **JSTOR** after the citation; those available via Google Scholar have a bold **Google Scholar** after the citation. A few articles are available at one or more other sites if accessed from a machine on the UC-Berkeley network; in such cases either a correct web-site for the journal will appear in bold after the citation, or the word **OskiCat** will appear in bold after the citation, signifying that you need to call up the journal on OskiCat, find the issue and then obtain the paper. The following books should also be purchased:

Lucas, Samuel Roundfield. 2008. *Theorizing Discrimination in an Era of Contested Prejudice: Discrimination in the United States, Volume 1*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. (For the Jan 29 class discussion)

Lucas, Samuel Roundfield. In Press. *Just Who Loses? Discrimination in the United States, Volume 2*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. (For the Feb 5 class discussion—details on how to purchase will be provided during class)

Esping-Anderson, Gøsta. 1999. *Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (For the Mar 5 class discussion)

## Assignments and Grading

There are two types of writing assignments: 1) weekly short comments and, 2) a final paper.

### Weekly Comments

Each week each student is to write a short (1-3 paragraph) comment on the collected readings of the week. The comment should 1) identify a research question that the readings for the week raise or imply but do not answer, and, 2) briefly sketch a feasible strategy (proposal) for answering the question.

The plain text (no bold, italics, underlining, colors, and so forth) document should be e-mailed (no attachments) to [socpost@gmail.com](mailto:socpost@gmail.com) by 9pm the Monday before class. **Place the label “Soc290” in the subject field.**

### Final Paper

Students may write either an *empirical research paper* or a *research proposal* that engages the literature discussed in one or more weeks of class reading. The paper should address, either as a proposal or in empirical research, a question or questions relevant to one or more crises of inequality we have covered. Students interested in writing an empirical research paper can look to many of the papers on the syllabus for clues as to how to structure such a paper. Students interested in writing a research proposal (and students who are searching for research questions as well) are encouraged to go to:

[http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new\\_publication\\_3/%7B7a9cb4f4-815f-de11-bd80-01cc477ec70%7D.pdf](http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new_publication_3/%7B7a9cb4f4-815f-de11-bd80-01cc477ec70%7D.pdf)

from which they may download "The Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions." This resource describes general issues that will be helpful to anyone drafting a proposal. Of course, students are expected to discuss their final projects at an early stage with other members of the class. A synopsis of the paper is due April 2; further details on what the synopsis requires will be provided prior to the due date.

The course grade is based on attendance, class participation, the weekly submitted short comments, and the final paper. Every member of the class is expected to speak in class every class, without prompting from others. Late work will not be accepted. No Incompletes will be given in this course.

### **Week 1, Jan 22 -- Introduction**

### **Week 2, Jan 29 – Discrimination: Classic and Critical Theoretical Perspectives**

Altonji, Joseph G., and Rebecca Blank. 1999. "Race and Gender in the Labor Market." *Handbook of Labor Economics* 3: 3143-3259. **Google Scholar**

Roemer, John E. 1979. "Divide and Conquer: Microfoundations of a Marxian Theory of Wage Discrimination." *The Bell Journal of Economics* 10: 695-705. **JSTOR**

Lucas, Samuel Roundfield. 2008. *Theorizing Discrimination in an Era of Contested Prejudice: Discrimination in the United States, Volume 1*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

### **Week 3, Feb 5 – Discrimination: Empirical Evidence**

Badgett, M.V. Lee. 1995. "The Wage Effects of Sexual Orientation Discrimination." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 48: 726-739. **JSTOR**

Bertrand, Marianne, and Sendhil Mullainathan. 2004. "Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination." *American Economic Review* 94: 991-1013. **Google Scholar**

Lucas, Samuel Roundfield. In Press. *Just Who Loses? Discrimination in the United States, Volume 2*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

### **Week 4, Feb 12 – Discrimination: Selected Policy Responses**

Goldin, Claudia, and Cecilia Rouse. 2000. "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians." *American Economic Review* 90: 715-741. **JSTOR**

Jackson, Pamela Braboy, Peggy A. Thoits, and Howard F. Taylor. 1995. "Composition of the Workplace and Psychological Well-Being: The Effects of Tokenism on America's Black Elite." *Social Forces* 74: 543-557. **JSTOR**

Loury, Glenn C. 1992. "Incentive Effects of Affirmative Action." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 523: 19-29. **JSTOR**

Kalev, Alexandra, Frank Dobbin, and Erin Kelly. 2006. "Best Practices or Best Guesses? Assessing the Efficacy of Corporate Affirmative Action and Diversity Policies." *American Sociological Review* 71: 589-617. **Google Scholar**

Steinberg, Ronnie J. 1990. "Social Construction of Skill: Gender, Power, and Comparable

Worth.” *Work and Occupations* 17: 449-482. **OskiCat**

### **Week 5, Feb 19 – Fertility and Assortative Mating**

Mare, Robert D. 1997. “Differential Fertility, Intergenerational Educational Mobility, and Racial Inequality.” *Social Science Research* 26: 263-291. **Google Scholar**

Schwartz, Christine R., and Robert D. Mare. 2005. “Trends in Educational Assortative Marriage from 1940 to 2003.” *Demography* 42: 621-646. **Google Scholar**

Blossfeld, Hans-Peter. 2009. “Educational Assortative Marriage in Comparative Perspective.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 435-455. **Google Scholar**

Kalmijn, Matthijs. 2001. “Assortative Meeting and Mating: Unintended Consequences of Organized Settings for Partner Choices.” *Social Forces* 79: 1289-1312. **Google Scholar**

### **Week 6, Feb 26 – Poverty in Theoretical, Empirical, and Policy Perspective**

Hulme, David, and Andrew Shepherd. 2003. “Conceptualizing Chronic Poverty.” *World Development* 31: 403-423. **Google Scholar**

Newman, Katherine S., and Rebekah Peebles Massengill. 2006. “The Texture of Hardship: Qualitative Sociology of Poverty, 1995-2005.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 32: 423-446. **Google Scholar**

Albrecht, Don E., and Stan L. Albrecht. 2000. “Poverty in Nonmetropolitan America: Impacts of Industrial, Employment, and Family Structure Variables.” *Rural Sociology* 65: 87-103. **Google Scholar**

Ellwood, David T. 2000. “Anti-Poverty Policy for Families in the Next Century: From Welfare to Work—and Worries.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14; 1: 187-198. **JSTOR**

Blank, Rebecca M. 2005. “Poverty, Policy, and Place: How Poverty and Policies to Alleviate Poverty Are Shaped by Local Characteristics.” *International Regional Science Review* 28: 441-464. **Google Scholar**

Neumark, David, and Scott Adams. 2003. “Do Living Wage Ordinances Reduce Urban Poverty?” *Journal of Human Resources* 38: 490-521. **JSTOR**

Blank, Rebecca M. 2000. “Distinguished Lecture on Economics in Government: Fighting Poverty: Lessons from Recent U.S. History.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14; 2: 3-19. **JSTOR**

### **Week 7, Mar 5 – Welfare States: Variations in a Changing World**

Hicks, Alexander, and Lane Kenworthy. 2003. "Varieties of Welfare Capitalism." *Socio-Economic Review* 1: 27-61. **Google Scholar**

Esping-Anderson, Gøsta. 1999. *Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

O'Connor, Julia S. 1993. "Gender, Class and Citizenship in the Comparative Analysis of Welfare State Regimes: Theoretical and Methodological Issues." *British Journal of Sociology* 44: 501-518. **JSTOR**

### **Week 8, Mar 12 – Welfare States: Policies, Processes, and Dynamics**

Kangas, Olli, and Joakim Palme. 2000. "Does Social Policy Matter? Poverty Cycles in OECD Countries." *International Journal of Health Services* 30: 335-352. **Google Scholar**

Steensland, Brian. 2006. "Cultural Categories and the American Welfare State: The Case of Guaranteed Income Policy." *American Journal of Sociology* 111: 1273-1326. **JSTOR**

Wright, Erik Olin. 2000. "Working-Class Power, Capitalist-Class Interests, and Class Compromise." *American Journal of Sociology* 105: 957-1002. **JSTOR**

Lutz, Wolfgang, Brian C. O'Neill, and Sergei Scherbov. 2003. "Europe's Population at a Turning Point." *Science* 299: 1991-1992. **Google Scholar**

Lee, Ronald, and Timothy Miller. 2000. "Immigration, Social Security, and Broader Fiscal Impacts." *American Economic Review* 90: 350-354. **JSTOR**

### **Week 10, Mar 19 – Global Stratification: System Theories and Empirical Research**

Firebaugh, Glenn. 1999. "Empirics of World Income Inequality." *American Journal of Sociology* 104: 1597-1630. **JSTOR**

Dorius, Shawn F., and Glenn Firebaugh. 2010. "Trends in Global Gender Inequality." *Social Forces* 88: 1941-1968. **Google Scholar**

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16: 387-415. **JSTOR**

Hopkins, Terence K., and Immanuel Wallerstein. 1986. "Commodity Chains in the World-Economy Prior to 1800." *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)* 10: 157-170. **Google**

### Scholar

Wood, Geof, and Ian Gough. "2006. A Comparative Welfare Regime Approach to Global Social Policy." *World Development* 34: 1696-1712. **Google Scholar**

Hall, Jason K., and Loretta E. Bass. 2012. "The Effects of Global Interaction on Poverty in Developing Countries, 1991-2005." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 18: 236-265. <http://www.jwsr.org/archives/47>

### Week 11, Apr 2 – Responses to Global Stratification in Systemic Perspective

Morgan, S. Philip, and Rosaling Berkowitz King. 2001. "Why Have Children in the 21st Century? Biological Predisposition, Social Coercion, Rational Choice." *European Journal of Population* 17: 3-20. **Google Scholar**

Borjas, George J. 1994. "The Economics of Immigration." *Journal of Economic Literature* 32: 1667-1717. **JSTOR**

Burawoy, Michael. 1976. "The Functions and Reproduction of Migrant Labor: Comparative Material from Southern Africa and the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 81: 1050-1087. **JSTOR**

Choi, Wai Kit, and David A. Smith. 2010. "China and the Global Apparel Commodity Chain." *Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice* 22: 416-422. **Google Scholar**

### Week 12, Apr 9 – Debt and Stratification: National, Individual, and Structural

Bulow, Jeremy. 2002. "First World Governments and Third World Debt." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* 2002: 229-255. **JSTOR**

Brzoska, Michael. 1983. "The Military Related External Debt of Third World Countries." *Journal of Peace Research* 20: 271-277 **JSTOR**

Drentea, Patricia, and Paul H. Lavrakas. 2000. "Over the limit: the association among health, race and debt." *Social Science & Medicine* 50: 517-529. **Google Scholar**

Skaggs, Niel T. 1998. "Debt as the Basis of Currency: The Monetary Economics of Trust." *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 57: 453-467. **Google Scholar**

Hoppe, Hans-Hermann. 1994. "How is Fiat Money Possible? or, The Devolution of Money and Credit." *Review of Austrian Economics* 7: 49-74. **Google Scholar**

### Week 13, Apr 16 – Theoretical Perspectives on Exploitation

Roemer, John E. 1985. "Should Marxists be Interested in Exploitation?" *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 14: 30-65. **Google Scholar**

Sørensen, Aage B. 2000. "Toward a Sounder Basis for Class Analysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 105: 1523-1558. **JSTOR**.

Wright, Erik Olin. 2000. "Class, Exploitation, and Economic Rents: Reflections on Sørensen's 'Sounder Basis'." *American Journal of Sociology* 105: 1559-1571. **JSTOR**

Choi, Wai Kit. 2009. "Revolutionary Shanghai: Rethinking Class and the Politics of Difference Through Chinese Communism." *Science & Society* 73: 242-260. **Google Scholar**

Sakamoto, Arthur, and Jeng Liu. 2006. "A Critique of Wright's Analysis of Exploitation." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 24: 209-221. **Google Scholar**

Sakamoto, Arthur, and Changhwan Kim. 2010. "Is Rising Earnings Inequality Associated with Increased Exploitation? Evidence for US Manufacturing Industries, 1971-1996." *Sociological Perspectives* 53: 19-44. **JSTOR**

**Week 14, Apr 23 – Extreme or Precipitously Declining Conditions: General Implications and Implications for Stratification**

Massey, Douglas S. 1996. "The Age of Extremes: Concentrated Affluence and Poverty in the Twenty-first Century." *Demography* 33: 395-412. **Google Scholar**

Duncan, Richard C. 2001. "World Energy Production, Population Growth, and the Road to the Olduvai Gorge." *Population & Environment* 22: 503-522. **Google Scholar**

Butler, Colin. 2000. "Inequality, Global Change and the Sustainability of Civilization." *Global Change and Human Health* 1: 156-172. **Google Scholar**

Schwartz, Peter, and Doug Randall. 2003. "An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security."  
**[http://www.climate.org/PDF/clim\\_change\\_scenario.pdf](http://www.climate.org/PDF/clim_change_scenario.pdf)**

Cairns, John Jr. 2008. "Preparing for the Post-Industrial Age." *Asian Journal of Experimental Sciences* 22: 13-24. **Google Scholar**

**Week 15, Apr 30 -- Provisional Reflections on Multiple Pressing Issues of Stratification and Inequality**

**Final Papers due by 12noon on Thursday, May 9**