

Prelim in Social Stratification and Class Analysis  
August 7/8, 2010

Part I – First three hour session of two

Answer Question 1. Then, answer Question 2 *or* Question 3.

**Question 1 (Required)**

For **8 [EIGHT]** of the following terms, identify the content of the term, its use in social stratification and class analysis, and key authors debating/using the concept and their perspective.

- a) structural mobility
- b) Featherman-Jones-Hauser revision
- c) de-commodification
- d) significant others influence
- e) statistical discrimination
- f) human capital
- g) credentialism
- h) birth order
- i) MMI
- j) model minority
- k) concerted cultivation
- l) log-linear model

**Question 2**

Most analyses of inequality in occupations ignore organizations. Some analysts have famously claimed that one must bring the firms back in. Describe in some detail three theories of occupational inequality that ignore organizations. Then, consider how those theoretical claims might be affected—sharpened, confirmed, disconfirmed, or otherwise—by bringing an explicitly identified theory of organizations into the dialogue. Be sure to use at least two different organizational theories in your essay, although you need use only one organizational theory for any given theory of occupational inequality. And, feel free to rely to some degree on the empirical literature that may have attempted to bring the firms back in.

**Question 3**

Most analyses of gender inequality ignore organizations. Yet, gender inequality is arguably produced through the behavior of firms. Describe in some detail three theories of gender inequality in earnings that ignore organizations. Then, consider how those theoretical claims might be affected—sharpened, confirmed, disconfirmed, or otherwise—by bringing an explicitly identified theory of organizations into the dialogue. Be sure to use at least two different organizational theories in your essay, although you need use only one organizational theory for any given theory of gender inequality. And, feel free to rely to some degree on the empirical literature that may have attempted to bring firms into the dialogue on gender inequality.

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Part II – Second three hour session of two

–Answer 1 of the following 2 **SETS** of questions (**Either** 1A and 1B **OR** 2A and 2B):

**SET 1**

**Question 1A**

Several different theories of discrimination have been developed. Each theory defines discrimination in a particular way, and opens onto an empirical literature concerning the existence and effects of discrimination. Contrast and compare the claims of three different theories of discrimination. Afterwards, evaluate the empirical evidence bearing on each theory.

and

**Question 1B**

A person's occupation connects to how they spend their workday, with whom they spend their workday, and how much money they are paid. This important variable thus has cultural, social, and economic implications and, as such, has been variously conceived, measured, transformed, and interpreted by different sociological traditions. Link three major ways in which occupation has been measured empirically to theories with which those ways resonate. Evaluate the central positions in the debate between the different theoretical traditions as to the central meaning of occupation for social stratification. Finally, of the three approaches you selected, which offers the best resource for future research on inequality, and why?

~or~

**SET 2**

**Question 2A**

Convey the major theories concerning the impact of immigration on native born members of the society, in socioeconomic, political, and cultural spheres. Then, using existing empirical evidence, weighed by your stated evaluation of the strength of that evidence, evaluate the accuracy of each theory for understanding the impact of immigration on the native born. Outline a research program designed to evaluate (and, if possible, adjudicate between any) theories that remain viable. Be sure to attend to any relevant diversity amongst the native born and any relevant diversity among immigrants.

and

**Question 2B**

Social mobility researchers have used cross-national research to consider the level and pattern of social mobility. What are 3 major theoretical claims that have been made about the level and/or pattern of social mobility? Using existing empirical research, assess these theoretical claims. In evaluating the empirical research, please be sure to critically attend to the methodological bases of the findings.