

Prelim in Social Stratification and Class Analysis
July 24/25, 2008

Part I – First three hour session of two

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

Question 1 (Required)

For 8 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) Wisconsin model
- b) Featherman-Jones-Hauser hypothesis
- c) dual labor market
- d) SEI
- e) exploitation
- f) social capital
- g) Mare model
- h) SAT model
- i) EMI
- j) power
- k) commodification

Question 2

Relate three distinct theories of the **inter-generational** transmission of power (indexed by any one or more of the correlates of power, e.g., earnings, occupation, education, or more). Then, using these theories, sketch the implications of each theory for *one* of the phenomena mentioned **below**. Then, using existing empirical evidence, weighed by your stated evaluation of the strength of that evidence, evaluate the accuracy of each theory for the phenomena you chose. For any given theory for which there is no empirical evidence, describe the research one would need to do to assess that theory's ability to aid our understanding of the phenomenon.

- a) Contemporary means of information dissemination in a diverse society, and likely future possibilities.
- b) Historic and contemporary differences between educational institutions.
- c) Historic and contemporary within-firm hierarchies and reward structures.

Question 3

Relate the key theories concerning the maintenance of differences between occupations in society (i.e., occupational inequality). Then, using these theories, sketch the implications, accurate or not, of the theories for *one* of the phenomena mentioned **above**. Then, using existing empirical evidence, weighed by your stated evaluation of the strength of that evidence, evaluate the accuracy of each theory for the phenomena you chose. For any given theory for which there is no empirical evidence, describe the research one would need to do to assess that theory's ability to aid our understanding of the phenomenon.

Prelim in Social Stratification and Class Analysis
June 13/14, 2006

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

Analysts have debated whether race or class matters more in the United States. Critically use the research literature to develop your answer to this question for two or more dimensions of stratification. Be sure to use the literature to coherently conceptualize both race and class.

and

Question 1B

A major cleavage concerns the best means of conceptualizing and measuring the socioeconomic dimension of stratification. Discuss and evaluate the central positions in this debate as well as the empirical evidence bearing on these positions. Be sure to attend to the implications of the positions for both stratification researchers and other researchers who merely seek to correctly control for persons' different locations in a stratified society in their research. Finally, should we measure socioeconomic status and, if so, how should we do so in the real world of research?

~or~

SET 2

Question 2A

Analysts have proposed various social-psychological models for understanding stratification. Some of these models have sparked major controversy, while others have been broadly celebrated. Discuss a few of the central social-psychological models, their differences and similarities. Critically evaluate the theoretical definitions of, as well as the empirical evidence bearing on, each of these models. Based on your discussion, make a case as to whether these models are complementary or conflictual, and, either way, to what extent they have improved or harmed our ability to understand phenomena of interest to stratification researchers.

and

Question 2B

Despite foundational works which focused on power, contemporary researchers rarely attempt to measure power directly. Has power become the missing dimension of stratification? If one wanted, how might one proceed to measure power directly? What challenges might one encounter, and how might one resolve them? How necessary is such an effort to resolving one or more specific debates in social stratification that you can identify? How damaging to our understanding is the absence of a measure for power in our models, and upon what basis do you make this determination?