

Prelim in Social Stratification and Class Analysis
January 30/31, 2014

Part I – First three hour session of two sessions.

Answer Questions 1A and 1B. Then, answer Question 2 *or* Question 3.

Question 1A (Required)

For 4 [FOUR] 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.

- 1a,a)human capital
- 1a,b)RRA
- 1a,c)Featherman-Hauser-Jones revision
- 1a,d)segmented assimilation
- 1a,e)welfare state
- 1a,f)stereotype threat

Question 1B (Required)

For 4 [FOUR] 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.

- 1b,a)reverse discrimination
- 1b,b)exploitation
- 1b,c)financialization
- 1b,d)EGP scheme
- 1b,e)commodity chain

Question 2

Avoiding race and issues of racial inequality (as these are the simplest most pedestrian examples), please identify two central areas of social stratification/class analysis research—or questions that have concerned these researchers—that, for all their centrality, have neglected the roles of 1)criminal enterprise and 2)penal policy. After briefly making the case that each area/question identified is indeed a central one, convey what roles, relevant to the issues you identified, might criminal enterprise and penal policy play. Be sure that by the end of your answer the reader can see what in our understanding might improve were analysts to infuse each area/question with an understanding of the roles of criminal enterprise and penal policy.

Question 3

Analysts have debated the role of culture in stratification. After providing a coherent, working definition of culture for your essay, please convey 3 central theories that contend culture matters, or does not matter, for stratification. Then, critically discuss the existing evidence bearing on these theories. If the issue is resolved, note the successful theory—if the issue remains unresolved, briefly outline a key study that would address (if not completely resolve) the matter.

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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

Convey the major theories concerning the impact of immigration on the “native born” in the society in social and economic 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 study that would 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 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 scholars from different sociological traditions. Briefly identify three major ways in which occupation has been conceived, then identify traditions of measurement that are based on those theories. Next, critically evaluate these three existing theoretical positions and the relevant empirical evidence so as to conclude which theoretical tradition—and measurement strategy—holds the most promise for future research on inequality.

~or~

SET 2

Question 2A

Analysts have debated whether race or class matters more in the United States. Interestingly, what is lost in that debate is the possibility that gender—or, put another way, sex—is more important than either race *or* class. Array evidence for and against the claim that, compared to race or class, gender is more important to stratification in the United States for 1)poverty and 2)violent victimization, as preface to providing *your* answer to whether gender is or is not more important than class or race for the outcomes of poverty and violent victimization. Be sure to use the literature to coherently conceptualize race, class, and gender (or sex).

and

Question 2B

Several different theories of the relationship between parent status characteristics and students’ educational attainment have been offered. List five distinct theories of this relation, for each theory, identify at least one empirical analysis that has explicitly addressed the theory. Then, critically evaluate the existing empirical work to determine which single theory, of the five listed, is, in your judgment, most likely to be correct at this juncture.