

Prelim in Social Stratification and Class Analysis  
September 28/29, 2015

Part I – First three hour session of two sessions.

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

**Question 1 (Required)**

From each column select 4 [FOUR] of the 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.

COLUMN A, answer FOUR

- 1.A1)symbolic violence
- 1.A2)compensating differentials
- 1.A3)Mare model
- 1.A4)assortative marriage
- 1.A5)Schelling model
- 1.A6)family wage

COLUMN B, answer FOUR

- 1.B1)Lorenz curve
- 1.B2)Two-sided logit
- 1.B3)financialization
- 1.B4)MMI
- 1.B5)income mobility

**Question 2**

Teachers occupy a potentially important place in stratification processes. Relate three theories that explicitly address or can be elaborated to address teachers' place as stratifiers and three additional, different theories that explicitly address or can be elaborated to address teachers as placed in strata themselves. As you relate each theory, identify an existing empirical research work bearing on that theory or describe a relevant empirical study one could conduct.

**Question 3**

The role of class in political contestation is a matter of on-going debate. In that debate some treat class as an "objective" phenomenon while others treat class as a "subjective" phenomenon. Identify key authors and works in each tradition, and evaluate the utility of each approach for empirical research on one of the following inequality-related issues: 1)education transitions in the United States, 2)social movement mobilization around earnings inequality, 3)social movement mobilization around affirmative action.

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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 explanations for gender inequality in earnings. Then, using existing empirical evidence, weighed by your stated evaluation of the strength of that evidence, evaluate the accuracy of each theory for the phenomenon. Outline a research study that would evaluate (and, if possible, adjudicate between any) explanations that remain viable. Be sure to attend to any relevant diversity amongst women and any relevant diversity among men.

and

**Question 1B**

Human capital theory, the Wisconsin social-psychological model, and Davis and Moore all offer explanations for the existence and/or maintenance of earnings inequality and stratification systems. Using the existing empirical evidence, evaluate these theories as explanations of wealth inequality. Of the three theories, which provides the most cogent explanation? What research could you design to empirically evaluate all three theories?

~or~

**SET 2**

**Question 2A**

The positions the employed hold have been conceived in many ways, most notably as occupations, as jobs in a given enterprise, and as class locations. Taking the “jobs in a given enterprise” perspective, convey three literatures that have theorized and investigated the system of stratification using this perspective. Are those literatures reconcilable with the occupations and/or class locations perspectives and, if so, how?

and

**Question 2B**

Human capital theory, the Wisconsin social-psychological model, and Davis and Moore all offer explanations for the existence and/or maintenance of earnings inequality and stratification systems. Using the existing empirical evidence, evaluate these theories as explanations of social mobility. Of the three theories, which provides the most cogent explanation? What research could you design to empirically evaluate all three theories?