Sociological Perspectives on Social Stratification and Inequality in the United States: A Century of Continuity and Change

SOCY 07

(T-Th, 10A, 10:10am-12:00pm; x-period, F 3:30-4:20pm) Location: 277 Berry

Professor: Jason Houle Office: 308B Blunt Hall

Contact: Jason.Houle@Dartmouth.edu or Slack DM

Office Hours: Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment @ www.calendly.com/jnhoule

***Office hours are an open period in my schedule that I reserve for meeting with students in my courses. If you have any questions about the course material or assignments, or just want to chat, you should feel free to schedule an appointment anytime.

Course Description:

When we think about social inequality, it's tempting to view it as the inevitable byproduct of effort, where those at the top are rewarded for their perseverance, and those at the bottom should work harder to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps." In this class, we will interrogate these naïve assumptions, and explore sociological understandings of social stratification and inequality in the context of 20^{th} and 21^{st} century United States. We will specifically focus on how sociologists write, craft arguments, and develop and test theories about social inequality.

As part of this process, you will learn how to write (and read) formal sociological research papers, such as those that appear in academic journals. We will also learn how to package these ideas to public audiences (such as op-eds). Substantively, we will focus on a range of topics, including (but not limited to): social mobility, poverty and social welfare policies, race and gender stratification, the causes and consequences of rising wealth and income inequality, and the changing face of inequality before and after the Great Recession and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Course Structure & Objectives

This course will skew heavily towards seminar, so students are expected to come prepared to discuss and critically engage with the readings. A key goal of this class is that you learn how to write like a sociologist. Thus, in addition to practicing our own writing, we will spend a great deal of time discussing how sociologists think about, write about, and argue about social stratification. For these reasons, we will mainly examine research that appears in academic journals, books, and journalistic outlets—rather than textbooks—so that you can get a feel for the types of questions researchers are asking, how they craft their arguments, as well as potential gaps in the literature. By the end of this course, you should be able to engage in a critical, evidence and theory-based dialogue of social stratification in the U.S, articulate these ideas in your writing, and have a solid grasp of how to write and articulate sociological ideas and research to both academic and public audiences. Students should also refer to the learning outcomes expected in all First Year Seminars: http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/curriculum/writing-courses/first-year-seminar-course-outcomes

Each class period will include a mixture of 1) daily writing prompts/reflection; 2) student-led seminars (30 minutes); 3) writing workshops. We will be using **Slack** for all virtual discussion this term. You will need to download Slack onto your machine, and join the **SOCY 7** workspace (click here for more information about Slack).

COVID-19 Safety Regulations

In accordance with <u>current College policy</u>, mask use will be optional in the classroom this term. However, those who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend class, and all students who are identified as a close contact should mask for at least 10 days after exposure. If you refuse to comply with masking or other safety protocols, and to ensure the health and safety of our community, I am obligated to report you to the Dean's office for disciplinary action under Dartmouth's <u>Standards of Conduct</u>. Additional COVID-19 protocols may emerge. Pay attention to emails from the senior administrators at the College. I will communicate any changes and their resulting implications for our class community.

For the health and safety of our class community, please: do not attend class when you are sick, nor when you have been instructed by Student Health Services to stay home.

Evaluation and Grading (including due dates)

Slack Posts (5%): We will be using **Slack** for all our asynchronous virtual discussion this term. You will need to download Slack onto your machine, and join the **SOCY 7** workspace (for more info, see https://services.dartmouth.edu/TDClient/1806/Portal/KB/?CategoryID=16984). You will need to submit at least **ONE** Slack post for each unit. Posts should be made to the appropriate Slack Channel—for example, your Unit 3 Slack post should be posted to the #Unit3 Slack Channel.

This is an "open" discussion, so post freely on anything that is of interest to you, if it is relevant to the material in the unit. For example: what is an issue you feel strongly about that is addressed (or unaddressed!) in the material? What are some questions you have about the research, evidence, or theory covered? What is the most important, actionable solution to these issues? And so on. I want to hear <u>your voice</u>. To get full credit for this assignment, students must post to the Slack channel at least once per Unit. Students must post no later than 9am on the last day of the unit. I encourage you to post as early as possible, as it will enrich our in-class conversations if you do so.

The purpose of these Slack posts is fourfold: (1) to encourage the practice of notetaking and critically engaging with the readings; (2) to help spark class discussion; (3) to alert me if anything needs to be clarified from the readings; and (4) to let me know that you have, in fact, done the reading.

Student Led Seminars (5%): Each student will be required to facilitate one seminar over the course of the quarter. You will sign up for a facilitation slot on the first day of class. Facilitating discussion requires some preparation before class. I would suggest reading the material carefully, considering the implications (academically, personally, politically), and preparing some thought-provoking questions for the class discussion, at minimum. You are also welcome create student activities and use whatever outside materials and/or audio/visual aids that you would like (though this is not required). My goal here is to 1) get you comfortable with speaking, facilitating discussion, and presenting material in front of groups of people—as this is an important skill 2) give you a deeper understanding of the material by teaching it and talking through it, which will ultimately make you a better writer. You should expect to facilitate discussion for approximately 30 minutes. Please see the handout from the first day of class for ideas and best practices on leading seminar.

In-Class Writing Prompts (10%): We will start off some classes with a brief (10-15 minute) writing prompt on the readings for the day. I will provide you with a prompt (perhaps a quote from a reading, or a

topic) and you will need to reflect on that prompt based on the readings. As part of the prompt, you should begin with a summary of the authors' argument, findings, and conclusions, as well as your reflections on the topic. For example—did you find the study useful? Did something bother you about the question/theory/methods? This is the place to get some of these ideas down. You will receive feedback on these reading prompts and may use them during group peer-review sessions and may be asked to revise the prompts during our writing workshops. You can only turn in the reading prompts in-person on the day of class. If you are absent, you are not allowed to turn in the prompts via email. Prompts will be graded on the check system (\checkmark + [exemplary], \checkmark [average/adequate], \checkmark - [not sufficient]). To account for occasional absences, I will drop the two lowest writing prompt grades.

Writing Workshops (5%) During most class periods we will have writing workshops. Some of these writing workshops will have distinct themes (such as "Reading Academic Articles" "Writing Social Scientific Research Articles" and "Writing Social Science for a Public Audience" "How to search for and cite academic research"), while in others we will free write, or take this time to workshop and peer review your writing with classmates. Because writing is central to this course, your attendance on writing workshop days will be graded. If you show up and actively contribute, you will receive an A for the day. If you do not come to class, you will receive a 0 for the day. To account for occasional absences, I will drop the lowest writing workshop grade at the end of the term.

Paper 1 (25%) For your first major writing assignment, you are tasked with writing an op-ed (opinion) piece, like those that run in major newspapers and online outlets. You will select a major issue (e.g., global warming, sexual assault, the opioid epidemic) and a corresponding academic research article. Your goal is to make an argument using the key findings of the academic research article in the form of an op-ed. There are two objectives to this assignment: 1) to provide you with the tools to write op-eds in the future; 2) to give you experience translating academic research to public audiences. You will have multiple opportunities to revise this paper. You will also have another opportunity for feedback when you turn in a draft of your full paper before the final draft is due. All drafts should be submitted via Canvas by the deadline. You will receive more details on this assignment in class. This paper will be completed in a series of steps:

- 1) Op-ed "pitch": article/issue selection, outline of major op-ed elements (lede, thesis, three claims, "to be sure" counterclaim, and call to action) (5%) **Due 1/18**
- 2) Rough draft of op-ed and references page (5%) Due 1/25
- 3) Final Draft of Op-Ed (15%) Due **2/1**

Final Research Paper (45%) For the final writing assignment, you will write a standard sociological research paper on the topic or question of your choice (if it is related to stratification and inequality). You will draw on secondary literature (at least seven <u>academic sociological</u> research articles) to address your research questions. This paper will be completed in a series of steps, and you will receive feedback and review from myself and your classmates at each stage:

- 1) *I page research proposal (5%):* Your research proposal must include your research question, a testable hypothesis, and a description of how you plan to address/answer your research question (see assignment instructions for more details). **Due 2/8**
- 2) Literature Review (5%): Your literature review should include a discussion of the relevant scholarly literature on your topic as it pertains to your research question. Please note that the

- literature review is <u>not supposed to be a simple summary of the research on a topic.</u> Rather, you need to use existing research, theory, and evidence to build your argument and motivate your research question. **Due 2/20**
- 3) Rough Draft (5%) <u>Due 2/27</u> You will need to schedule a 15 minute meeting with me on **Friday 3/1** to discuss your plans for revision.
- 4) Revised Draft (5%) <u>Due 3/3 by 6pm (via email to Prof Houle and your peer review partner).</u>
- 5) Final Draft (25%) <u>Due 3/10 by 5pm</u>

**I will provide more details on the specifics (ex. using ASA style, font requirements) in class.

Class Participation (5%): Given that this class will be a seminar rather than lecture, class participation is imperative to the success of this class. What does class participation entail? It means you must be an active participant in the class. On days that you are not facilitating, this includes actively contributing to the class discussion, above and beyond your participation in small group discussions and workshops. If you come into class, sit quietly every day, and do not contribute to class discussion you will receive a 0 for class participation.

I will use the following scale in assigning grades:

95%-100%:	A	83%-88.9%:	В	73%-76.9%:	C	Below 60%:	F
92%-94.9%	A-	80%-82.9%	B-	70%-72.9%	C-		
89%-91.9%:	$\mathbf{B}+$	77%-79.9%:	\mathbf{C} +	60%-69.9%:	D		

Attendance Policy

As a general rule, I do not believe in attendance policies for college-aged students. If you must miss class, you do not need to provide me with an explanation. More importantly, do not ask whether you missed anything important (if the material you missed wasn't important, it wouldn't have been covered in class). Do not ask me for notes—ask your classmates. I will assume that you are serious about your commitment to this class. As such, I presume that if you miss class, you have a good reason (e.g., you are very sick, you are caring for someone who is very sick, or you are trapped under something very heavy). One exception: If your absences become chronic, or if you anticipate chronic absences, then it's time to consult with me.

All that said, if you blow off class and do so on a regular basis, your class participation, reading prompt, and writing workshop grades will suffer.

Late Policy

All students will receive one 24-hour extension on any class assignment of their choosing, no questions asked (for exceptions to this policy, see below). Students should notify me via email if/when they plan to use their extension. After that, on any assignment, your grade will be reduced by 8 percentage points for each day late (e.g., 1 day late a grade of 100 would be reduced to a 92; 2 days, 84; and so on). Please come talk to me if you are having difficulty keeping up with the coursework. There are three exceptions to this policy: reading prompts, Slack posts, and your revised draft of Paper #2 (to be sent to your peer review partner) will not be accepted if they are late.

<u>Make-up exams/assignments</u>: There will be no make-up assignments except in extremely rare cases in which some unforeseen crisis/emergency arises. If you know ahead of time that you have a conflict with an assignment due date, you should turn in the assignment early to avoid late penalties. If you hand in an assignment late because you are sick, and you have had several weeks to complete the assignment, the late penalty will still apply.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner and all members of the Dartmouth community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the Dartmouth community and compromise the worth of work completed by others. As such, dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and students found in violation of the Dartmouth Academic Honor Principle will be notified and reported to the appropriate authorities (http://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/policy/academic-honor-principle). Cheating and other forms of dishonesty (such as plagiarizing) often result when students feel too much pressure to perform and that they do not have the tools to achieve their goals. If you are falling behind or feeling overwhelmed, please come sit down and chat with me BEFORE you decide to cheat. For additional resources on the Academic Honor Code, plagiarizing, and proper citation of sources, please see the following link: http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/learning/materials/sources-and-citations-dartmouth

Use of Generative AI Tools

Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and similar technologies are rapidly becoming part of our professional lives. Used properly, these tools can enhance our work; used improperly, they can result in plagiarism, academic dishonesty, false information, and intellectual stunting. Use of these tools is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts
- Formatting references in ASA style
- Checking grammar, style, and clarity when revising drafts

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments and exams. You are expected to compose your written assignments yourself.
- Using AI tools as a substitute for original thought
- Composing discussion board prompts.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.

If you use Generative AI tools on anything you submit for SOCY 7, you must provide sufficient documentation or attribution, just as you would for any other source or reference. In an appendix to your assignment, please include an explanation as to (a) your original prompt to the chatbot; (b) some examples of incorrect data that the chatbot provided to you; and, (c) how you reworked and revised so that your final document was both factually accurate and reflected your writing voice and style. Please

exercise caution in using AI for research assistance, as all existing AI apps 'hallucinate' and supply false information. Do not rely on AI for accurate information, but always fact-check. Any violation of this policy is a violation of the Dartmouth Academic Honor Principle and will be reported to the Committee on Standards.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services for this course are encouraged to see us privately as early in the term as possible. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Students Revices office (Carson Hall, Suite 125, 603-646-9900, Student Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu). Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to us. As a first step, if students have questions about whether they qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, they should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential, but please note that the Student Disabilities Coordinator may be consulted to verify the disability.

Writing Center

The Writing Center is a free support service that is dedicated to helping students through all stages of the writing process and at any point in their undergraduate careers. In one-on-one appointments, peer tutors use facilitative approaches to engage students in active dialogue about writing and help them grow as writers. Tutors can help students develop strategies for generating ideas, find and evaluate research sources, outline and organize information, and revise completed drafts. Students may schedule an appointment with a peer tutor by visiting dartgo.org/writingcenter.

Access to Campus Resources

We recognize that the academic environment at Dartmouth is challenging, that our terms are intensive, and that classes are not the only demanding aspect of your life. Many of you may be facing greater challenges than usual given the changes to your living and learning environment, public health concerns, and a host of other factors (e.g., housing or food insecurity, new or changing caregiving responsibilities, accessibility and visa concerns, access to health and mental health support, and so on).

There are a number of campus resources available to support your needs. For concerns about health and wellness, you may reach out to the <u>Dartmouth Health Service</u> (603-646-9400), <u>Counseling Services</u> (603-646-9442), and the <u>Student Wellness Center</u>. For academic needs, you may contact your <u>undergraduate dean</u> (603-646-2243), <u>Student Accessibility Services</u> (603-646-9900), and the <u>Academic Skills Center</u> (603-646-2014). Students with concerns related to campus employment may connect with the <u>Student Employment Office</u> (603-646-3641). Those with visa-related concerns may reach out to the <u>Office of Visa and Immigration Services</u> (603-646-3474). We encourage you to take advantage of these resources, and to speak with us if you need support in the class.

Please note that faculty and staff are required by law to report certain matters to relevant parties on campus, including disclosures of sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual assault, relationship and interpersonal violence, and stalking. You can find more information about confidential versus non-confidential resources and support options here.

Course Readings

Cottom, Tressie McMillan. 2019. *Thick and Other Essays*. New York: The New Press (I will provide each student with a free copy of this book on the first day of class)

All readings for this course will be available on Canvas, except for Cottom. You are expected to complete the readings by the date listed on the syllabus and come to class prepared to discuss these readings—if you were at all confused or lost by the readings, then you must come to class with questions for discussion.

A general note on reading academic journal articles in this course: Much of the reading in this course will be from the major sociological journals (e.g., American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review). For this reason, the reading may be a bit more arduous for those of you who are unfamiliar with the technical style of academic journal articles. For this reason, we will spend time learning how to read scholarly articles, and in many cases I will only be assigning portions of articles. That said, please do not get too caught up or tripped up by the details of the analytical methods and results. I am more concerned that you come away with the general arguments and conclusions of an article than I am with whether you understand the intricacies of multiple regression (or whatever method is used). Thus, you should pay closest attention to the "front end" of the paper (that is, the literature review and hypotheses) and the conclusion section. You should do your best with the methods and results sections of the paper, as they can provide important clues about the strengths and weaknesses of the study (e.g., how well do their variables measure the concepts they're interested in? Do their data allow a good test of their hypothesis? Do we believe their findings?), but don't let yourself get lost in the weeds.

READING SCHEDULE

Note: please refer to evaluation and grading section for due dates; Please also see CANVAS calendar for all assignment due dates. You are expected to complete the readings by the date listed on the syllabus and come to class prepared to discuss these readings

Unit 1: How Do Sociologists Think About Social Stratification? An Introduction (1/4-1/9)

Songs of the Unit: Working Class Hero, John Lennon
Darkness on the Edge of Town, Bruce Springsteen

My Hometown, Bruce Springsteen
This is America, Childish Gambino

Thursday 1/4: An Introduction to the Course

Marx, Karl. "Alienation and Social Classes" (pp. 127-131) and "Ideology and Class" (pp. 141-142), Grusky

Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Forms of Capital" pp. 443-456, M&S

Cottom- "In the Name of Beauty"

Tuesday 1/9

Davis, Kingsley and Wilbert E. Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification." *American Sociological Review*, p. 28-30, Grusky

Tumin, Melvin. 1953. "Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis." *American Sociological Review* p 31-38, Grusky

Cottom- "Thick"

Fischer, Claude et al. 1996. "Inequality by Design" excerpt from *Inequality by Design*, pp. 39-42, Grusky. (Note: for material in the Grusky reader, you can find the full citation information on the first page of the PDF).

Unit 2: American Exceptionalism? Status Attainment and Social Mobility (1/11-1/16)

Songs of the Unit: Career Opportunities, The Clash

Factory, Bruce Springsteen All American Made, Margo Price

Fortunate Son, Creedence Clearwater Revival

Thursday 1/11

Beller, Emily and Michael Hout. 2006. "Intergenerational Social Mobility: The United States in Comparative Perspective." *The Future of Children* 16: 19-36.

Pinsker, Joe. 2015. "America is even less socially mobile than economists thought" *The Atlantic* http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/07/america-social-mobility-parents-income/399311/

Cottom, "Girl 6"

Read for Writing Workshop:

Watts, Tyler W, Greg J. Duncan, and Haonan Quan. 2018. "Revisiting the Marshmallow Test: A Conceptual Replication Investigating Links Between Early Delay of Gratification and Later Outcomes." *Psychological Science* 29:1159-1177.

Stephens, Brett. 2017. "Tips for Aspiring Op-Ed Writers." The New York Times, August 25.

Tuesday 1/16

Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67:747-776. (For a follow-up to this study, see Lareau 2015 in the optional readings for this unit)

Unit 3: Poverty and Social Welfare Policy (1/18-1/23)

Songs of the Unit: Fast Car, Tracy Chapman

Crime to be Broke in America, Michael Franti & Spearhead

Cumberland Gap, Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit

Thursday 1/18

Brady, David. 2023. "Poverty, Not the Poor." Science Advances 9:1-17.

Brady, David, Ryan Finnigan, and Sabine Hubgen. 2018. "Single Mothers Are Not the Problem." *New York Times*. Feb 10. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/10/opinion/sunday/single-mothers-poverty.html

Klein, Ezra. 2023. "Matthew Desmond on America's Addition to Poverty." *The Ezra Klein Show* (Podcast)

Optional: For another good op-ed/article pairing, see:

Parolin, Zachary. 2021. "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Black-White Child Poverty Gap in the United States." *Socio-Economic Review* 19:1005-1035

Parolin, Zachary. 2019. "Welfare Money is Paying for a Lot of Things Besides Welfare." *The Atlantic*. https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/06/through-welfare-states-are-widening-racial-divide/591559/

Tuesday 1/23

Duncan, Cynthia "Mil". 1996. "Understanding Persistent Poverty: Social Class Context in Rural Communities." *Rural Sociology* 61:103-124.

Cottom, "The Price of Being Fabulous"

Badger, Emily and Margot Sanger-Katz. 2020. "Take the Quiz: Could You Manage as a Poor American?" The New York Times https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/01/28/upshot/administrative-burden-quiz.html

**Optional: for those interested in recent research on reducing poverty, see these two special issues of the *Russell Sage Foundation Journal* at the links below:

https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/38083 https://muse.ihu.edu/issue/38084

Unit 4: Race, Ethnicity, and Legal Status (1/25-1/30)

Songs of the Unit: Walking in the Snow, Run the Jewels

The Blacker the Berry, Kendrick Lamar Only A Pawn in Their Game, Bob Dylan The Ballad of Crowfoot, Willie Dunn

This Land, Gary Clark Jr.

Pa'lante—Hurray for the Riff Raff

Mitski, Best American Girl

Thursday 1/25

Coates, Ta-Nahesi. 2014. "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/05/the-case-for-reparations/361631/*

Optional: For those interested in more introductory material on race and racism in the U.S., check out the following podcast: Chicago Public Radio. 2015. "The Problem we all live with" *This American Life* http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/562/the-problem-we-all-live-with

Pager, Devah. 2003. "The Mark of a Criminal Record." *American Journal of Sociology* 108:937-975 (SKIM)

Desmond, Matthew, Andrew V. Papachristos, and David S Kirk. "Police Violence and Citizen Crime Reporting in the Black Community." *American Sociological Review* 81:857-876.

Cottom, "Know Your Whites"

Tuesday 1/30

Flores, René and Ariela Schachter. 2018. "Who are the 'Illegals?" The Social Construction of Illegality in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 83:839-868.

Guo, Jeff. 2016. "The Real Secret to Asian American Success Was Not Education." *The Washington Post* https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/11/19/the-real-secret-to-asian-american-success-was-not-education/

Cottom, "Black is Over"

Optional: For those interested in additional recent research on race and immigration in the U.S., please see this special edition of the *Russell Sage Foundation Journal* below: https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/39026

Unit 5: Sex and Gender Stratification (2/1-2/6)

Songs of the Unit: Transgender Dysphoria Blues, Against Me!

Dixon's Girl, Dessa Paygap, Margo Price

Thursday 2/1

England, Paula. 2014. "Devaluation and the Pay of Comparable Male and Female Occupations." Pp. 919-923 in Grusky Reader

Miller, Claire Cain. 2016. "As Women Take Over a Male-Dominated Field, the Pay Drops." *The Upshot, New York Times*. https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/20/upshot/as-women-take-over-a-male-dominated-field-the-pay-drops.html

Cottom, "Black Girlhood Interrupted"

Tuesday 2/6

Correll, Shelley J. 2004. "Constraints into Preferences: Gender, Status, and Emerging Career Aspirations." *American Sociological Review* 69: 93-113.

Cottom "Dying to be Competent"

Unit 6: College: The Great Leveler? (2/8 - 2/13)

Songs of the Unit: Money, Pink Floyd

Strange Arithmetic, The Coup Last of my Kind, Jason Isbell

Thursday 2/8

Hout, Michael. 2012. "Social and Economic Returns to College Education in the United States." *Annual Review of Sociology* 38:379-400. **NOTE: Skip or Skim section on "causal inference" from p. 382-386; Please also feel free to skip any passages with complex statistical language.

Bhatia, Aatish, Claire Cain Miller, and Josh Katz. 2023. "Study of Elite College Admissions Data Suggests Being Very Rich is its own Qualification." *The Upshot: New York Times*, July 24.

Spend some time exploring the data behind this research:

Economic Diversity and Students Outcomes at Dartmouth College. *The Upshot: New York Times* https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/college-mobility/dartmouth-college; See updated data here: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/09/11/upshot/college-income-lookup.html; For more background, see: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/09/07/magazine/college-access-index.html

Tuesday 2/13

Jack, Anthony Abraham. 2016. "(No) Harm In Asking: Acquired Cultural Capital and Academic Engagement at an Elite University." *Sociology of Education* 89: 1-19.

Cottom, Tressie. 2017. "The Coded Language of For Profit College" *The Atlantic* https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/02/the-coded-language-of-for-profit-colleges/516810/

Cottom, Tressie. 2022. "America Turned the Greatest Vehicle of Social Mobility Into a Debt Machine." *The New York Times* https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/21/opinion/cancel-student-loan-debt.html

Unit 7: Income Inequality: Causes and Consequences (2/15-2/20)

Songs of the Unit: Price Tag, Sleater Kinney Rose Colored Sky, TacoCat

Thursday 2/15

Leonhardt, David. 2017. "Our Broken Economy, in One Simple Chart." *The New York Times*, August 7. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/opinion/leonhardt-income-inequality.html

Leicht, Kevin and Scott Fitzgerald. 2014. "The Struggling Middle Class." Pp. 15-28 of *Middle-Class Meltdown: Causes, Consequences and Remedies*

Saez, Emmanuel 2019. "Striking It Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States", *Pathways Magazine*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality [note estimates updated annually]

Tuesday 2/20

Western, Bruce and Jake Rosenfeld. 2011. "Unions, Norms, and the Rise in U.S. Wage Inequality" *American Sociological Review* 4:513-537.

Fisher, Claude et al. 1996. "How Unequal? America's Invisible Policy Choices." Excerpt from *Inequality by Design*, pp.773-797, M&S

Unit 8: Wealth Inequality, Elites and the 1 Percent (2/22)

Song of the Unit: Super Rich Kids, Frank Ocean

Royals, Lorde

Thursday 2/22

Ingraham, Christopher. 2017. "The Richest 1 Percent Now Owns More of the Country's Wealth Than at any Time in the Past 50 Years." *The Washington Post*, December 6.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/12/06/the-richest-1-percent-now-owns-more-of-the-countrys-wealth-than-at-any-time-in-the-past-50-years/?utm_term=.57dfb061c763

Khan, Shamus Rahman. 2012. "The Sociology of Elites." Annual Review of Sociology 38:361-377

Harrington, Brooke. 2015. "Inside the Secret World of Tax Avoidance Experts." *The Atlantic* http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/elite-wealth-management/410842/

<u>Unit 9: Inequality in Crisis: The Great Recession and the COVID-19 Pandemic Inequality in the Wake of The Great Recession (2/27-2/29)</u>

Songs of the Unit: Bored in the U.S.A, Father John Misty
Life During Peacetime, Worriers
Death to my Hometown, Springsteen

Tuesday 2/27

Campbell, John. 2010. "Neoliberalism in Crisis: Regulatory Roots of the U.S. Financial Meltdown." *Research in the Sociology of Organizations* 30b:65-101.

Hou Lin, Ken and Megan Tobias Neely. 2020. "Why the Great Recession Made Inequality Worse." OUPBlog https://blog.oup.com/2020/02/why-the-great-recession-made-inequality-worse/# prelt=ldv1dc70

Further (Optional) Reading for Interested Parties:

Kiel, Paul, and Annie Waldman. 2015. "The Color of Debt: How Collection Suits Squeeze Black Neighborhoods." *ProPublica* https://www.propublica.org/article/debt-collection-lawsuits-squeeze-black-neighborhoods

*If you're interested in following up on this, check out the *This American Life* episode "Status Update" http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/573/status-update?act=3#play

Thursday 2/29

Badger, Emily. 2020. "The Year Inequality Became Less Visible, and More Visible than Ever." *The New York Times.* https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/28/upshot/income-inequality-visible.html

Parolin, Zachary and Stefano Filauro. 2023. "The United States' Record-Low Child Poverty Rate in International and Historical Perspective: A Research Note." *Demography* 60:1665-1673.

Lowrey, Annie. 2023. "Low-Wage Jobs are Becoming Middle-Class Jobs." *The Atlantic*, March 4. https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/03/wage-growth-income-inequality-labor-market/673277/

Optional: Interested in Learning more about inequality and COVID infections/deaths? This piece is a good start:

Jones, Malia, Mahima Bhattar, Emma Henning, and Shannon M. Monnat. 2023. "Explaining the U.S. Rural Disadvantage in COVID-19 Case and Death Rates During the Delta-Omicron Surge: The Role of Politics, Vaccinations, Population Health, and Social Determinants." *Social Science & Medicine* 335:116180.

Writing Workshop #8, Tuesday 3/5

Wrap-up (optional) readings for your own edification:

Hobbes, Michael. 2017. "FML: Why Millennials are Facing the Scariest Financial Future of Any Generation Since the Great Depression." *Highline* http://highline.huffingtonpost.com/articles/en/poormillennials/

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. 2020. "How Do We Change America? The quest to Transform this Country Cannot be Limited to Challenging its Brutal Police." *The New Yorker* https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america

Unit 10 (Optional Unit): What Can Be Done? Policy Solutions for Inequality

Sociologists have a knack for pointing out the social ills and problems in society. While we have focused on <u>solutions</u> for the issues discussed in class, I thought it might be useful to provide a more coherent discussion of what can be done to reduce the inequalities discussed this term in this optional unit. Feel free to explore the readings below as well as the lecture notes posted on canvas.

Songs of the Unit: Alright, Kendrick Lamar
Bob Dylan, Blowin' in the Wind
Sam Cooke, A Change is Gonna Come

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Darity, William. 2019. "Running the Numbers on Closing the Racial Wealth Gap." Durham, NC: The Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity, Duke University.

Desmond, Matthew. 2019. "Dollars on the Margins." *The New York Times Magazine* https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/21/magazine/minimum-wage-saving-lives.html?smid=tw-nytmag&smtyp=cur

Fischer, Claude. 2019. "Fixing Inequality: More Opportunity is Not the Answer." *Made in America: Notes on American Life from American History*.

https://madeinamericathebook.wordpress.com/2019/03/04/fixing inequality more opportunity is not the

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Hanauer, Nick. 2019. "Better Schools Won't Fix America." *The Atlantic* https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/07/education-isnt-enough/590611/

Wright, Erik Olin. 2013. "Transforming Capitalism through Real Utopias (2012 ASA Presidential Address)." *American Sociological Review*. 78:1-25. (Note: Prof Wright was a great speaker. If you would prefer to watch him deliver this address, rather than read it, see the linked video here: https://vimeo.com/203840373#t=3240s)

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Massey, Doug. "How Stratification Works" pp. 1-27 in Categorically Unequal

Tilly, Charles. "The Roots of Durable Inequality", pp. 432-442, M&S

Ridgeway, Cecilia L. "Why Status Matters for Inequality." American Sociological Review 79:1-16.

Weber, Max "Class, Status and Party" pp 165-174, Grusky

Young, Iris Marion. 2003. "Political Responsibility and Structural Injustice." Lindley Lecture, University of Kansas.

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Berger, Thor. 2018. "Places of Persistence: Slavery and the Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States." *Demography* 44:1547-1565.

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<u>Unit 7</u>

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