

Sociology 124
THE SOCIOLOGY OF POVERTY
Fall 2012
Professor Sánchez-Jankowski
Office Hours: Monday 8:30-10:30 in 470 Barrows Hall

This course will explore the sociology of poverty. In that regard, it will examine a number of theories on the causes of poverty, and then turn to the consequences of poverty for the people who live in it. Although the course will focus a good deal of attention on poverty in the US, there will be readings and lectures that deal with it in other societies as well. For the US we will look at the history of poverty in the US, the everyday lives of the poor, the social problems experienced as a result of poverty, and finally the role of social policy in the cycle of poverty. In addition, the course will address the role that poverty has played in the everyday lives of the divergent ethnic groups that have had it as part of their cultural experience in America. In this regard, the course will examine the interactive impact that poverty has had on the various cultures of the ethnic groups that have had a history of confronting persistent poverty and compare their experience with those groups that have had a history of experiencing poverty temporally. Finally, while there has been in recent times an urban bias to the study of poverty we will include poverty in rural areas as well.

REQUIREMENTS: There will be three essay exams given and they will be “closed book” and taken in class. Two of these exams will be given during the regular ninety-minute period allotted for the class, and the third will be the final exam where students will be given three hours. If for reasons of illness or a death to a member of the immediate family, the student is not able to take the exam, then a make-up exam will be offered. For an illness, a doctor’s note telling me that it was impossible for the student to perform their tasks on the exam is required. For a death in the immediate family, a note from a family member with a phone number to call for verification is required. If students do not have either of these verifications, they will not be excused and will receive an “F.”

EXAM DATES: October 2nd for Exam # 1, November 20th for Exam # 2, and December 12th for the Final Exam.

GRADING: The instructor has developed all the exams for the course. In this regard, the instructor has written the questions and the answers to these questions for the reader to follow. In this way, the students will know that there was an answer for each of these questions and this answer was consistently applied to each student on each question. Every question is of equal weight and so is every exam. Thus, the final exam is one third of the student’s final grade. For each exam the student will be given a point sum and a letter grade. A+= 100-96; A= 95-92; A-= 91-90; B+= 89-87; B= 86-83; B-= 82-80; C+= 79-77; C= 76-73; C-= 72-70; D+= 69-67; D= 66-63; D-= 62-60; F= 59-0. The formula for your final grade is determined by adding up the scores on your three exams, dividing by three to determine your mean score, placing that score on the scale provided above,

and then assigning the appropriate letter grade. Finally, for those students who are taking the course on a pass/fail basis, you must receive a C- or better on each of the exams to receive a pass grade. If any one of your exams falls below the C- level you will be given a “no pass” grade.

Week 1

August 28: Discussion of the Outline for the Course

Week 2

August 28: Lecture on Analytic Concepts Utilized

Readings: Fischer, *Inequality By Design*

August 30: Lecture on Role of Genetics on Individual Poverty

Readings: Fischer, *Inequality By Design*

Week 3

September 4: Lecture on Human Capital and Poverty

Readings: *Inequality By Design*

September 6: Lecture on Social Capital and Poverty

Readings: *Inequality By Design*

Week 4

September 11: Lecture on Economy and Poverty

Readings: Wilson, *When Work Disappear*

September 13: Geography and Poverty

Reading: Wilson, *When Work Disappears*

Week 5

September 18: Lecture on Poverty and Social Structure I

Readings: Wilson, *When Work Disappears*

September 20: Lecture on Poverty and Social Structure II

Readings: Wilson, *When Work Disappears*

Week 6

September 25: Lecture on Geography and Rural Poverty

Readings: Duncan, *Worlds Apart*

September 27: Lecture on Rural Poverty and Culture

Readings: Duncan, *Worlds Apart*

Week 7

October 2: **Exam # 1 (Covers Material from Books IBD, WWD, and Lectures on those topics)**

October 4: Lecture on Rural Poverty and Social Structure I

Readings: Duncan, *Worlds Apart*

Week 8

October 9: Lecture on Institutions and Poverty

Readings: *Sánchez-Jankowski, Cracks in the Pavement*

October 11: Lecture on Neighborhood Housing and Poverty

Readings: *Sánchez-Jankowski, Cracks in the Pavement*

Week 9

October 16: Lecture on Everyday Economics and Poverty

Readings: *Sánchez-Jankowski, Cracks in the Pavement*

October 18: Lecture on Culture and Poverty

Readings: *Sánchez-Jankowski, Cracks in the Pavement*

Week 10

October 23: Lecture on Crime and Poverty

Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*

October 25: Lecture on Corruption and Development

Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*

Week 11

October 30: Lecture on Crime and Social Structure

Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*

November 1: Lecture on the State and Social Control

Readings: Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*

Week 12

November 6: Lecture on Poverty and Disease

Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*

November 8: Lecture on Poverty and Health

Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*

Week 12

November 13: Lecture on Disaster and Poverty

Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*

November 15: Lecture on Social Isolation and Poverty

Readings: Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*

Week 13

November 20: **EXAM # 2 (Covers Books CIP, PTP, II and lectures on the topics)**

November 22: Thanksgiving Holiday

Readings: Edin, *Promises I Can Keep*

Week 14

November 27: Lecture on Sexuality and Poverty

Readings: Edin, *Promises I Can Keep*

November 29: Lecture on Parenting and Poverty

Readings: Edin, *Promises I Can Keep*

Week 15

December 4: Lecture on Poverty and Public Policy

Readings: Patterson, *America's Struggle With Poverty*

December 6: Review

Readings: Patterson, *America's Struggle With Poverty*

December 12: FINAL EXAM from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Covers PICK, ASWP, Lectures on those topics, material from the rest of the course.)