

Sociology 124
THE SOCIOLOGY OF POVERTY
Fall 2014

Professor Sánchez-Jankowski

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:45-11:45 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/no pass 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. This is because the Final Exam includes new material from the final third of the course (as well as material from the first two thirds) and in order for me to "officially" say that you passed all the material in the course you will need to pass each exam, including the final, where there is new material.

Week 1

August 28: Outline of the Course

Readings: Daryl Collins, et. al., *Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day*

Week 2

September 1: Lecture on Economic Nature of the Problem

Readings: Collins, et. al., *Portfolios of the Poor*, Continued

September 4: Lecture on Economic Nature of the Problem, Continued

Readings: Collins, et. al. , *Portfolios of the Poor*, Continued

Week 3

September 9: Lecture on Human Capital and Poverty

Readings: Collins, et. al., *Portfolios of the Poor*, Continued

September 11: Lecture on Sociology of Poverty

Readings: Sanchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement: Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods*

Week 4

September 16: Lecture on Social Capital and Poverty

Readings: Sanchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*, Continued

September 18: Geography and Poverty

Reading: Sanchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*, Continued

Week 5

September 23: Lecture on Poverty and Social Structure

Readings: Sanchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement*, Continued

September 25: **EXAM # 1 (Covers Material From POP, CIP, and the lectures)**

Week 6

September 30: Lecture on Environment, Health and Poverty

Readings: Javier Auyero and Debra Alejandra Swinstun, *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentinian Shanty Town*

October 2: Lecture on Health and Poverty, Continued

Readings: Auyero and Swinstun, *Flammable*, Continued

Week 7

October 7: Lecture on Disasters, Poverty, and Health

Readings: Auyero and Swinstun, *Flammable*, Continued

October 9: Lecture on Social Isolation, Poverty and Health

Readings: Auyero and Swinstun, *Flammable*, Continued

Week 8

October 14: Lecture on Income and Disease

Readings: Paul Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*

October 16: Lecture on Housing and Disease

Readings: Paul Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*, Continued

Week 9

October 21: Lecture on Culture and Disease

Readings: Paul Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*, Continued

October 23: Lecture on Governments and Disease

Readings: Paul Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities*, Continued

Week 10

October 28: **EXAM # 2 (It will cover material From *Flammable*, *Infections and Inequalities*, Lectures and the books/lectures from Start of the Course)**

Readings: None

October 30: Lecture on Poverty and Crime

Readings: Michael Patrick MacDonald, *All Souls: A Family Story From Southie*

Week 11

November 4: Lecture on Community and Crime

Readings: Michael Patrick MacDonald, *All Souls*, Continued

November 6: Lecture on Poverty and Incarceration

Readings: Michael Patrick MacDonald, *All Souls*, Continued

Week 12

November 11: Lecture on Crime and Economic Development

Readings: Michael Patrick MacDonald, *All Souls*, Continued

November 13: Lecture on Economic Considerations of Human Wellbeing

Readings: TBA

Week 12**November 18: Lecture on America's Policies Toward Poverty**

Readings: TBA

November 20: Lecture on Personal Freedom and PovertyReadings: Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Continued**Week 13****November 25: Lecture on Global Policies and Poverty**Readings: Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Continued**November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday**Readings: Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Continued**Week 14****December 2: Lecture on What Is To Be Done**Readings: Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Continued**November 4: Review**

Readings: None

December 17: FINAL EXAM from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Covers All the Lectures and Readings in the Course.)