

Syllabus  
New York University  
Steinhardt School of Education  
Department of Humanities and the Social Sciences  
Program in Sociology of Education  
Summer, 2009

E20.2371 Social Inequality and Education  
Floyd M. Hammack  
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### Introduction

This course concerns itself with the study of the mechanisms by which educational institutions foster and maintain equalities and inequalities in American society. Consideration is first given to the kinds of inequalities which exist in our society, to their bases and sources. The course will then turn its attention to the analysis of educational practices and structures related to the production and maintenance of equalities and inequalities. The consequences of educational opportunity of recent reform proposals will be considered as will the relation of education to jobs and occupational opportunities.

### Texts

Robert A. Rothman. 2005. *Inequality and Stratification: Class, Race and Gender*. 5th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Jay MacLeod, 2009. *Ain't No Making It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood*. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Paul Attewell and David E. Lavin, 2007. *Passing the Torch: Does Higher Education for the Disadvantaged Pay Off Across the Generations?* New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Other readings as assigned.

### Course Requirements

Although there will be time devoted to lectures, this class will require students' participation in class and group discussions. Thus, it is important that students

attend class and have the assigned readings finished for each session. Students will make class presentations. Three one hour written examinations will be required. The examinations will all carry the same value, and one's course grade will be the simple average of the grades on all three. Students may opt for an extra-credit book review essay if they choose. This paper can only be used to improve your mark; its grade will be not used if lower than your exams. The book to be read, if this option is elected, must be discussed with the instructor before the paper is begun.

#### Course Calendar

May 18. Introduction: A Little History of Opportunity.  
May 19. An Introduction to Social Stratification. Rothman, Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4.  
May 20. Patterns of Inequality, Rothman, Chapter 5, 6, 7.  
May 21. Stratification and Opportunity, Rothman, Chapter 8, 9, 10, 11. One Hour Exam  
May 25 Memorial Day-no Class  
May 26. Ain't No Makin' It, Chapters 1-6.  
May 27. Ain't No Makin' It, Chapters 7-11  
May 28. A Matter of Faith? Davies. One Hour Exam  
June 1. Passing the Torch, Chapters 1-4.  
June 2. Passing the Torch. Chapter 5-8.  
June 3. Prospects for Schools: Raudenbush; Alexander, Entwisle, and Olson; Downey, Von Hippel and Broh. Take-Home Exam  
June 4. Movie, *49-UP*

#### Course Documents in Blackboard

Stevenson and Baker, Shadow Education In Japan  
[shadow\\_ed.pdf](#) (844.48 Kb)

Rosenbaum, College For All  
[Rosenbaum. College for All.pdf](#) (267.67 Kb)

Angel Harris, "I (Don't) Hate School: Revisiting "Oppositional Culture" Theory of Blacks' Resistance to Schooling."  
[Harris. I Dont Hate School.pdf](#) (237.718 Kb)

Alexander, Entwisle and Olson, "Lasting Consequences of Summer Learning Gap"  
<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/April07ASRFeature.pdf>

"Race, Class, and Gender in America: Narratives of

Opportunity Among Low-Income African American Youths" by Carla O'Connor  
[oconnor.pdf](#) (1.898 Mb)

Downey, Von Hippel and Broh, "Are Schools the Great Equalizer?"  
[Downey.04.pdf](#) (290.938 Kb)

Carter, "Black Cultural Capital, Status Positioning, and Schooling Conflicts for Low Income African American Youth"  
[Carter Black Cultural Capital.pdf](#) (228.381 Kb)

John U. Ogbu and Herbert D. Simons, "Voluntary and Involuntary Minorities: A Cultural-Ecological Theory of School Performance with Some Implications for Education."  
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0161-7761%28199806%2929%3A2%3C155%3AVAIMAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-W>

"Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies" by Ann Swidler  
[http://www.nyu.edu/classes/hammack/classes/social\\_inequality\\_and\\_ed/swidler.pdf](http://www.nyu.edu/classes/hammack/classes/social_inequality_and_ed/swidler.pdf)

"Leaps of Faith: Shifting Currents in Critical Sociology of Education.," Davies  
[davies.pdf](#) (1.732 Mb)

The Continuing Debate on Equality, Davis and Moore, Tumin  
[davis\\_and\\_moore\\_1966.pdf](#) (3.436 Mb)

"On the Origin of Inequality among Men," Dahrendorf  
[origin.pdf](#) (3.114 Mb)

E. O. Wright, The Continuing Importance of Class Analysis  
[Wright Continuing Importance of Class.pdf](#) (3.107 Mb)

Hatcher, "Class Differentiation in Ed: Rational Choices?"  
[Hatcher. Class Differentiation in Ed. Rational Choices.pdf](#) (1.284 Mb)

Debates Over Ruby Payne  
[The Classist Underpinnings of Ruby Payne.doc](#) (151.5 Kb)

Attewell and Lavin, From Passing the Torch  
*Item is not available.*  
[Attewell and Lavin. The Difference.pdf](#) (6.199 Mb)

Attewell, "The Winner-Take-All High School"  
[Attewell. Winner Take All High School.pdf](#) (3.45 Mb)

The New York Times Series on Class in America

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/15/national/class/OVERVIEW-FINAL.html>

20 "Student Resistance: How the Formal and Informal Organization of Classrooms Facilitate Everyday Forms of Student Resistance" by Daniel MsFarland  
[Mcfarland Student Resistance.pdf](#) (6.176 Mb)

21 A Notion At Risk: Preserving Public Education as an Engine for Social Mobility, edited by Richard Kahlenberg,  
*Item is not available.*  
<http://www.equaleducation.org/notion/index.html>

22 "Wrong, Wrong, Wrong." by Rona Wilensky  
[wilensky1.pdf](#) (351.912 Kb)

23 Class Page  
[http://www.nyu.edu/classes/hammack/classes/social\\_inequality\\_and\\_ed/index.html](http://www.nyu.edu/classes/hammack/classes/social_inequality_and_ed/index.html)

24 Exchange on Tracking, Hallinan and Oakes  
[Hallinan.pdf](#) (1.272 Mb)  
[Oakes.Tracking.pdf](#) (1.183 Mb)

25 "Understanding Cultural Diversity and Learning," Ogbu  
[ogbu.pdf](#) (1.447 Mb)

26 "The 10% Solution," Yardley  
[yardley.pdf](#) (470.155 Kb)

27 "Bending Admissions to Political Ends," Laird  
[laird.pdf](#) (476.815 Kb)

28 "Detracking: The Social Construction of Ability, Cultural Politics, and Resistance to Reform," Oakes, Wells, Jones and Datnow  
[oakes.pdf](#) (1.578 Mb)

29 "Understanding Inequality in Schools: The Contributions of Interpretive Studies," Mehan  
[mehan.pdf](#) (1.754 Mb)

30 "Culture and Inequality," Vermeulen  
[vermeulen.pdf](#) (2.74 Mb)

31 "A League Table of Educational Disadvantage in Rich Nations" By UNICEF  
<http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/repcard4e.pdf>

- 32 Christopher Jencks, "Does Inequality Matter?"  
[fmh4.pdf](#) (256.164 Kb)
- 33 Bowles and Gintis, Schooling in Capitalist America Revisited  
[B and G. SCA Revisited.pdf](#) (2.301 Mb)
- 34 "America's Next Achievement Test" Commentary  
<http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V9/41/jencks-c.html>
- 35 "America's Next Achievement Test: Closing the Black-White test Score Gap." By C. Jencks and M. Phillips.  
<http://www.prospect.org/print-friendly/print/V9/40/jencks-c.html>
- 36 "Invisible Inequality" by Lareau  
[lareau.pdf](#) (1.968 Mb)
- 37 Can Separate be Equal? The Flaw in NCLB  
[http://www.tcf.org/Publications/Education/kahlenberg\\_separaterc.pdf](http://www.tcf.org/Publications/Education/kahlenberg_separaterc.pdf)
- 40 Schemo, "It Takes More than School to close Achievement Gap"  
[It takes more than schools to close achievement gap.8.06.doc](#) (28 Kb)
- 41 NYTimes Series, "Class in America"  
[Times.Class in America 1.doc](#) (48.5 Kb)
- 42 A.S. Wells, et. al, "How Desegregation Changed Us: The Effects of Racially Mixed Schools on Students and Society"  
[Wells. How Deseg Changedf Us.pdf](#) (270.514 Kb)
- 43 Horace Mann, Selections for the 1848 Report  
[Mann 1848 Report Excerpts.pdf](#) (182.079 Kb)
- 44 Does the Comprehensive High School Have a Future?  
[Does the Comprehensive High School Have a Future.doc](#) (85 Kb)  
The Promise and Problems of Secondary School Reform, 2
- 46 What Should be Common?  
[common1.13.doc](#) (86 Kb)  
The Promise and Problems of Secondary School Reform
- 47 Anthropology & Education Quarterly, Vol. 28, No. 3, Ethnicity and School Performance: Complicating the Immigrant/Involuntary Minority Typology, Sep., 1997

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0161-7761%28199709%2928%3A3%3C%3E1.0.CO%3B2-G>

50 Chin and Phillips, "Social Reproduction and Child-rearing Practices: Social Class, Children's Agency, and the Summer Activity Gap" [Chin Phillips Social Reproduction and Child rearing Practices.pdf](#) (177.314 Kb)

51 Sawhill, Opportunity in America [Sawhill.Opportunity in America.pdf](#) (258.822 Kb)

52 Beller and Hout, Intergenerational Mobility. The US in Comparative Perspective  
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3844789>

53 Jens Ludwig, Susan Mayer, "Culture" and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty: The Prevention Paradox  
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3844796>

54 Robert Haveman, Timothy Smeeding, The Role of Higher Education in Social Mobility  
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3844794>

55 Raudenbush, The Brown Legacy  
[Raudenbush. Brown Legacy.pdf](#) (353.211 Kb)