

Sociology Brooklyn College
Soc. 714
James 5305,
Mondays, 6:20 – 8:00

spring 2008
Prof George Cavalletto
office: after class
George@Cavalletto.org

Social Class

Jan 28: Introduction: film—“People Like Us: Social Class in America”

Feb 4: Theoretical foundations: Karl Marx—theory of class relations

- Anthony Giddens and David Held, “Marx: Class Relations and Capitalism”
- Karl Marx, excerpts on alienation, from *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*; *Holy Family*; “Notes of 1844: Free Human Production”

• Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party”; Marx, excerpts from *The Poverty of Philosophy* and *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, and *Capital*

Feb 11: Theoretical foundations: Karl Marx—class exploitation

- Marx, “Value and Surplus Value,” from *Wages, Price, and Profit*
- Marx, *Capital*, Vol 1, Chapter IV, “The General Formula for Capital”; Chapter VI, “The Buying and Selling of Labour-power”; and Chapter X, “The Working-Day”

Feb 18: no class

Feb 25: Theoretical foundations: Max Weber—classes, status groups, rationalization

- Anthony Giddens and David Held, “Weber: Classes, Status Groups, and Bureaucratic Domination”
- Max Weber, “The Distribution of Power: Class, Status, Party,” “Status Groups and Classes.” “The Expropriation of Workers from the Means of Production,” “The Meaning and Presupposition of Modern Capitalism,” “The Development of Industrial Technique”

Mar 3: A Contemporary neo-Marxist theory of class: Erik Olin Wright

- Erik Olin Wright, *Class Counts: Student Edition*

Mar 10: A contemporary Weberian analysis of American classes structure: Dennis Gilbert

- Dennis Gilbert, *The American Class Structure in an Age of Growing Inequality*

Mar 17: A new theoretical synthesis: Pierre Bourdieu

- Jonathan H. Turner, “Bourdieu’s Cultural Conflict Theory”
- Pierre Bourdieu, “Social Space and Symbolic Space”
- Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*

Mar 24: no class—class meets on Wednesday

Mar 26 (Wednesday): The marginal poor: a study of a ‘hillbilly slum’

- David L. Harvey, *Potter Addition: Poverty, Family, and Kinship in a Heartland Community*

Mar 31: The working poor class: indignities & deprivations

- Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*

Apr 7: Unionized industrial workers: social contradictions within mainstream working class life

- David Halle, *America’s Working Man*

Apr 14: The internalization of class contradictions

- Richard Sennet and Jonathan Cobb, *The Hidden Injuries of Class*

Apr 21: no class

Apr 28: Upper middle class lifestyle and values

- David Brooks, *On Paradise Drive*

May 5: The upper class as ruling class

- E. Digby Baltzell, *Philadelphia Gentlemen*

Mar 12: Review for final

Dec 19: Final