

SOC620 (CRN 79033)
Mon 3:00-5:30
BusAd D105

Instructor: Hagen Koo
Fall 2016

Seminar in Social Stratification

Social stratification constitutes the core of sociological ideas and provides an essential analytical tool for sociological analysis. The class will start with a quick review of key ideas of social inequality and class. Then, we will try to understand the phenomena of class in depth by reading four books that provide excellent analyses of class inequality in different social contexts. All these books are very interesting to read and provide insightful analyses of how class shapes our behaviors and perceptions and how it underlies other forms of social inequality like race and gender. A major aim of the seminar is to help students to pick up important conceptual tools of class analysis that can be utilized for their specific research in various fields.

Required Book:

Bell Hooks, *Where We Stand: Class Matters* (Routledge, 2000).

Paul Willis, *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs* (Columbia Univ. Press, 1977)

Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation* (Cornell University Press, 2001)

Robert Frank, *Falling Behind: How Rising Inequality Harms the Middle Class* (University of California Press, 2007)

Plus selected articles by Marx, Weber, and Bourdieu (available on Laulima)

Course Requirements:

1. One take-home exam on Marx, Weber, and Bourdieu.
2. Three short essays on Koo, Willis, and Frank (4-5 pages in double space)
3. A final term paper, which can be either a research proposal on a given topic (7-10 pages) or an independent research paper with data analysis included (10-15 pages). This paper must be closely related to class materials and discussions.

Active participation in seminar discussion is expected, and the student will be leading class discussion a few times.