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Introduction to Sociology

**Final: 14 December 2012**

Final Review

Social Class in the United States

* Wealth: property + income – debt
* Income: wages + rent + interest + royalties + business interest
* Property distribution in the United States > wealthiest 1% owns 1/3 of assets
* Mills > “Power Elite” > most affluent/powerful > CEOs of nation’s largest companies
* Hellinger and Judd > “Democratic Façade” > the belief by many Americans that they actually contribute to political decisions
* Erik Wright > class models > (4)

1. Capitalists – big business
2. Petty bourgeoisie – small business
3. Managers – sell/power
4. Workers – sell

* Gilbert and Kahl > (text 201) > PPP – Weber > class model (education, occupation, income) >

1. Capitalist
2. Upper middle
3. Lower middle class
4. Working class
5. Working poor
6. Underclass

* Kohn > primary influence on parents and what was emphasized in child-rearing > occupational practices
* Poverty calculation > cost of a low food budget, times three
* Horatio Alger myth > 1800s “Rags to Riches” possibility > author, boy heroes

Sex and Gender

* Gender stratification: unequal access to power, prestige, and property (PPP) based on person’s sex or gender
* George Murdock > study of 324 pre-modern societies > activity/job
  + Sex-typing occurs in all societies, save for metal working occupation
  + The sex/job combination is different across societies
* Minority groups > unequal/less access to PPP/resources > women in all societies
  + People who are discriminated against on basis of physical or cultural characteristics, regardless of number (still a minority)
* Waves of Feminism:

1. Radical (change structure) and conservative (right to vote) [1910 – 1920]
2. Work and wages > rights and pay [1960s]
3. Pleasure and international women’s rights [now]

* Pay gap > women paid 2/3 of what men are paid
* Gender tracking > degrees conferred are gendered by field (engineering, library sciences)
* Douglas Foley and Donna Eder (1990/2006) > generalized devaluation of women/females/femininity > football (players and coaches)
* Samuel Stouffer > “The American Solider” (study) > military officers (1949)
* Child penalty > gender discrimination against women who miss out on work experience while caring for children at home
* Testosterone bonus > men receive higher starting salaries than equally qualified women
* Glass Ceiling > mostly invisible barrier that keeps women from advancing to top jobs

Race and Ethnicity

* Socially/culturally constructed > definition varies according to context
* Louis Wirth > minority groups > people who are singled out for unequal treatment and who regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination
* Groups become minorities through
  + Expansion of political boundaries
  + Migration
* Internalization of norms of dominant group > self-subscription to oppressive ideology
* Prejudice describes beliefs/attitudes/thoughts/ideas > cognitive/emotional discrimination describes behavior/actions/treatment > experiential
* Heightened sense of ethnicity (ethnic identity) >
  1. Size: small group
  2. Power: little to none
  3. Difference in appearance
  4. High discrimination
* Indirect population transfer > conditions made so bad for some that it drives them to leave
* Direct population transfer > relocation by force of certain groups to other place
* Internal colonialism > process of how a country’s dominant group exploits minority groups for its economic advantage
* Assimilation vs. forced > willingly vs. unwillingly learning and incorporating dominant group values, customs, etc.
* Multiculturalism: pattern of intergroup relations where separate groups are peacefully united physically and economically while keeping separate ethnic cultures