

Charles Hwang

Elise Martel

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Social Stratification: Video #21

1. Social stratification is the categorization of individuals in society into different groups based on systematic characteristics like race, gender, social status, etc.
2. Social mobility is the movement or ability for an individual to move between social classes. The main types of social mobility are horizontal mobility and structural mobility. Horizontal mobility occurs when an individual experiences some significant change in their employment or routine that leaves them in the same social class, like changing to a job with a similar salary or regional relocation. Structural mobility occurs when individuals become able to move to different social classes based on some systematic adjustment, like tax legislation or a Federal Reserve action.
3. Closed systems are societies that tend to have little social mobility. An example is the social hierarchy in Ancient Egypt. They tend to be stable and predictable. Statuses can be inherited from family or assigned at birth, and perceptions of statuses can be strong. On the other hand, open systems are societies that have a lot of social mobility. Many individualistic societies have class systems that allow greater social mobility. Their social classes tend to be more volatile, and there may be less importance given to social class.
4. Status inconsistency occurs when an individual has a high social status but makes little money, or vice versa. For example, a manager of a transportation system may make a lot of money, but also may be shunned as “low-class” for working in public transportation.

Social Stratification: Video #22

1. Ideologies are cultural beliefs and values that determine the structure of society.
2. Different ideologies advocate for or result in different amounts of social stratification.
3. Three perspectives on stratification:
 - a. The Davis-Moore Thesis states that social stratification is necessary for the function of a society.
 - b. Davis and Moore fail to discuss the practicality of their thesis within a society.

The thesis also implicitly and falsely assumes that the most necessary jobs are the most difficult, and that the most difficult jobs are the most highly paid. In reality, there is not much correlation among these job characteristics.
 - c. Marx believed that one class, the bourgeoisie, owned the means of production and that eventually the working class, the proletariat, would overthrow them.
 - d. The main criticism of Marx's conflict theory is that the definition of who exactly was the "bourgeoisie" is vague and varies by society.
 - e. Dahrendorf argued that structural concessions to the working class—like benefits, legal protections, and overtime pay—and an ideological investment into a capitalist system satisfied them enough to not start a revolution.
 - f. Weber asserted that there was multidimensional stratification along the lines of social status, economic class, and social power. These three things make up the concept of socioeconomic status (SES).
 - g. Symbolic interactionism (SI) is the communication to others about one's social class by using or purchasing certain things. This subtle messaging conveys to

others that the individual belongs in a higher social class than otherwise would be perceived, and perhaps a higher social class than them.

- h. Judgment and recognition of cultural capital occur as part of symbolic interactionism. Having cultural capital is considered by some to be necessary to “represent” the social class they are a part of. They reinforce the presence of social classes, which leads to social stratification.

Social Stratification: Video #23

1. The three components of socioeconomic status (SES) as defined by Max Weber are social status, economic class, and social power.
2. Wealth is one's net worth, containing the total value of money and assets owned or entitled, while income is how much one earns from their job or investments.
3. One can have negative wealth if one's debts are greater than their valued assets. The bottom quintile of Americans in the United States has an average wealth of -\$6,000.
4. Homeownership and neighborhood residence played major roles in the discrepancy between the wealth of black households and the wealth of white households.
5. Redlining was a practice in which large banks would outline certain neighborhoods, usually including minority communities, on a map and refuse to loan money to those who claimed residence inside of them. This made neighborhood residence an important factor in the difference between the wealth of black households and that of white households.
6. Occupational prestige is the ranking of jobs based on salary, benefits, educational requirements, and social status.
7. Meritocracy is a system that assigns social classes based on personal achievement.
8. The United States is a "partial" meritocracy because personal achievement often can determine social class, but one's social status is assigned at birth, naturally creating unequal levels of difficulty to reach a certain class. For example, if one is born into a lower class, it will inherently be more difficult to obtain upper-class status.