

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Soc 1101: Summer 2023

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Schooling

Lecture 17

TODAY'S LECTURE OUTLINE

- **Schools – a fundamental social Institution**
- **Three roles of education in society**
 - **Socialization and assimilation**
 - **Credentialing**
 - **Sorting**
- **Education and inequality**
- **Tomorrow's lectures: Neighborhood; Crime and Punishment**

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLING

Education: the process through which academic, social, and cultural ideas and tools are developed

Schools: institutions of educational instruction

Schooling: education or training received, usually (but not always) at schools

At the most basic, schools are supposed to teach basic skills and impart knowledge

THREE ROLES OF SCHOOLS IN SOCIETY

- **Socialization and Assimilation**
- **Credentialing**
- **Social Sorting and Reproduction**



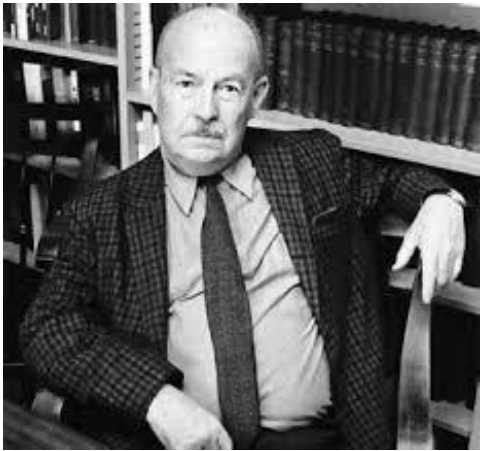
THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS – SOCIALIZING

- **Schools are important agents in socialization and assimilation processes**
 - They teach mainstream society's norms, values, beliefs and expectations
 - Emphasize a common language, history serving a pivotal role in nation-building
- **Curriculum creates a common culture, incorporating diverse groups**





THE CLASSROOM AS A SOCIAL SYSTEM



Talcott Parsons
(1902-1979), a
functionalist
sociologist

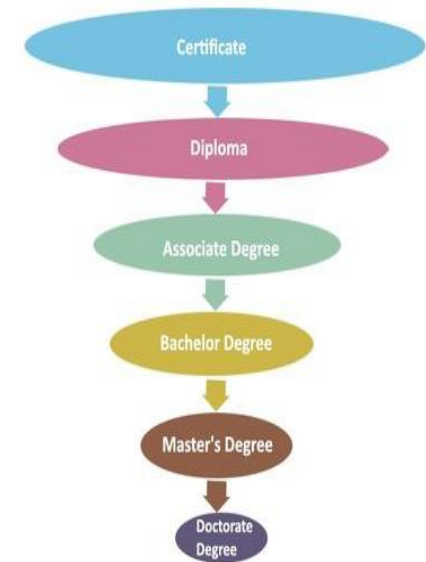
Schools help hold society together

Focal agent of socialization and allocation

Train students to embrace broad societal values and instill commitment to the performance of a specific role within society

THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS – CREDENTIALING

- **Education is an important credentialing mechanism**
 - **Certificates and degrees earned from schooling signal skills to employers**
 - **Create formal pathways to labor market**
- **Overemphasis on credentials (called “credentialism”) for signaling job qualifications decouples actual skill from credential required**



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THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS – SORTING

- **Schools serve as social sorting institutions**
 - **Agents of inequality (Reproduction thesis)**
 - **Egalitarian institutions**



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 - **Agents of inequality (Reproduction thesis)**
 - Cultural capital
 - “Hidden curriculum” provide students with different social backgrounds different types of education
 - Formal “tracking” or “ability grouping,” that sort students early
 - **Egalitarian institutions**



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- **Schools serve as social sorting institutions**
 - **Agents of inequality (Reproduction thesis)**
 - Cultural capital
 - “Hidden curriculum” provide students with different social backgrounds different types of education
 - Formal “tracking” or “ability grouping,” that sort students early
 - **Egalitarian institutions (Great equalizer)**
 - Summer-time experiments (Downey et al 2004)
 - College fosters social mobility
 - China: Role of family background vs schooling in predicting attainment



EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY

- **Determinants of educational attainment**
- **Consequences of education**

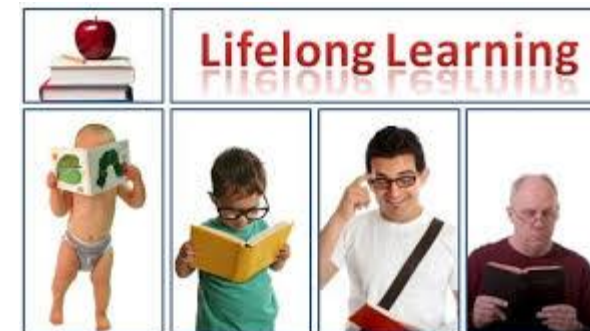
EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY

- **Determinants of educational attainment**
 - Family background
 - Schools one attends (geography, state/social policy, family background)
 - Shadow education
 - IQ
 - Effort
 - Luck
 - ...
- **Consequences of education**

EDUCATION AND INEQUALITY

- **Determinants of educational attainment**
- **Consequences of education**
 - “Education makes life better. People who pursue more education and achieve it make more money, live healthier lives, divorce less often, and contribute more to the functioning and civility of their communities than less educated people do.” (Hout 2013 *Annual Review of Sociology*)

THE SCHOOLED SOCIETY



TOMORROW'S CLASS

- **Crime and Punishment**
- **Neighborhoods**