**12.1 Social Class\***

* Defined as a category of people who share a similar socioeconomic position in society

Aspects of Social Stratification

* Based on socioeconomic status (**SES**)

1. Prestige = respect and importance tied to specific occupations or associations
2. Power = capacity to influence people through real or perceived rewards or punishment
3. Anomie = state of normlessness
   1. Anomic conditions erode social solidarity by means of **excessive individualism, social inequality, and isolation**
4. Social capital = investment people make in their society in return for economic or collective rewards
   1. Social networks either **situational** (socioeconomic advantage) or **positional** (based on how connected one is within a network, and one’s centrality within that network)
   2. Can be achieved through establishing strong and weak social ties
5. Intersectionality with race, gender and race

Patterns of Social Mobility

1. Intergenerational (parents to children)
2. Intragenerational mobility (within one’s lifetime)
3. Vertical mobility = Upward and downward mobility (e.g. a salaried professional position to an hourly position)
4. Horizontal mobility = change in occupation or lifestyle within the **same** social class
   1. E.g. an individual changes some aspect of social identity (from employed to unemployed) but maintains the same relative status (income remains the same)
5. Meritocracy

Poverty

* A socioeconomic condition
* Social reproduction = passing on of social inequality, esp poverty, from one generation to the next
* Can either be:
  + Absolute → people do not have enough resources to acquire basic life necessities
  + Relative → one is poor in comparison to a larger population
* Social exclusion = sense of powerlessness when individuals feel alienated from society

Spatial Inequality

* A form of social stratification across territories and their populations
* Can occur along residential, environmental, and global lines
  + Urban areas tend to have more diverse economic opportunities → more ability for social mobility than rural areas
  + Hence, urban areas also tend to have more low-income racial and ethnic minority than rural areas
  + Might cause the higher-income to migrate to suburbs instead
* Environmental injustice
  + Uneven distribution of environmental hazards in community
  + Lower-income neighborhoods may lack the social and political power to prevent the placement of environmental hazards in their neighborhoods

**12.2 Epidemiology and Disparities**

* Incidence = new cases / population at risk / time
* Prevalence = total cases / total population / time
* Morbidity = burden or degree of illness associated with a given disease
* Mortality = deaths caused by a given disease

Inequalities in Health

* Second sickness = exacerbation of health outcomes caused by social injustice
* Poverty is associated with worse health outcomes e.g. decreased life expectancy, etc
* Certain racial and ethnic minorities have worse health profile than others
  + African Americans << White Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans << Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders
* Females have better health profiles than males, though they have higher rates of chronic diseases and higher morbidity rates

Inequalities in Healthcare

* Efforts to improve healthcare for underserved populations
  + Affordable Care Act
    - Increase the coverage rate and affordability of insurance for all Americans
    - Reduce overall costs of healthcare
  + Medicare covers patients:
    - Over 65
    - With end-stage renal disease
    - With amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
  + Medicaid covers patients in significant financial need
* Healthcare access and quality differ across the population
  + Low-income groups and racial and ethnic minorities (specifically, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans) receive worse care than white Americans
  + Biases against overweight or obese patients → lower-qualitty treatment e..g less preventive care and fewer screenings
  + Women tend to have better access to healthcare and utilize more healthcare resources than men
  + LGBT men and women may have barriers to care due to prejudices, discrimination, and homophobia