

Sociology 357. Schooling, Racial Inequality, and Public Policy in America

Tues. and Thurs. 2:55 - 4:10, Uris 360

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Office Hours: Thurs, 10:30-12:00

Course description:

After examining alternative explanations for why individuals obtain different amounts and types of educational training, the course focuses on how an individual's family background and race affect his or her trajectory through the educational system. The course covers the specific challenges that have confronted urban schooling in America since the 1960s, including the classic literature on the effects of school and community resources on student achievement as well as the development and later evaluation of school desegregation policies. The course also considers case studies of current policy debates in the US, such as housing segregation and school resegregation, voucher programs for school choice, and the motivation for and consequences of the establishment of state-mandated testing requirements. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed upon the alternative modes of inquiry and writing which opposing scholars, policymakers, and journalists use to address these contentious topics.

This course is a 4 credit hour seminar-oriented course.

Requirements:

Two short papers (20% each).

One final paper (40%).

Class attendance and participation in discussion and debate (20%).

Week 1

January 22nd

Introduction to the course

January 24th

Writing in the Popular Press

“A Child Held Behind” by Monica Davey, *New York Times*, Jan. 16, 2005

“What it Takes to Make a Student” by Paul Tough, *New York Times*, Nov. 26, 2006.

Week 2

January 29th

Writing by Interest Groups

Education Next, Fall 2007 issue (Listed as 2007, Vol. 7, No. 4)

Go to: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/pastissues>

[Main website: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/>]

NEA Today, January 2008 issue

Go to: <http://www.nea.org/neatoday/0801/contents.html>

[Main website: <http://www.nea.org/neatoday/index.html>]

American Educator, Spring 2007 issue

Go to: http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator/issues/spring07/index.htm

[Main website: http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator/index.htm]

January 31st

Historical Development and Policy Context of Education in the United States (I)

Tyack, David B. 1974. *The One Best System: A History of American Urban Education*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (Parts I and II, pages 13-77)

Conant, James B. 1959. *The American High School Today: A First Report to Interested Citizens*. New York: McGraw-Hill. (“Recommendations for Improving Public Secondary Education,” pages 41-76)

Tyack, David and Larry Cuban. 1995. *Tinkering Toward Utopia: A Century of Public School Reform*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. ('The High School' in "Policy Cycles and Institutional Trends," pages 47-54; "Why the Grammar of Schooling Persists," pages 85-109)

Week 3

February 5th

Historical Development and Policy Context of Education in the United States (II)

National Commission on Excellence in Education. 1983. *A Nation At Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform*. (See especially the sections "A Nation at Risk" and "Recommendations")

Go to: <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/NatAtRisk/index.html>

Graham, Patricia Alberg. 2005. *Schooling America: How the Public Schools Meet the Nation's Changing Needs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ("Achievement 1983-Present," pages 153-200)

Hoxby, Carline M. 2003. "What Has Changed and What Has Not." Pp 73-110 in Paul E. Peterson, Ed., *Our Schools & Our Future ... Are We Still at Risk?* Stanford: Hoover Institution Press.

February 7th

Family Background, Educational Achievement/Attainment (I)

Davis, Kingsley and Wilbert E. Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification." *American Sociological Review* 10:242-49.

Kahl, Joseph. 1953. "Educational and Occupational Aspirations of Common Man Boys." *Harvard Educational Review* 23:186-203.

Week 4

February 12th

Family Background, Educational Achievement/Attainment (II)

Turner, Ralph H. 1960. "Sponsored and Contest Mobility and the School System." *American Sociological Review* 25:855-67.

Kerr, Clark. 1979. "Five Strategies for Education and Their Major Variants." *Comparative Education Review* 23:171-82.

February 14th

Family Background, Educational Achievement/Attainment (III)

Bourdieu, Pierre, *Cultural Reproduction and Social Reproduction*

Lareau, Annette. 1987. "Social Class Differences in Family-School Relationships: The Importance of Cultural Capital." *Sociology of Education* 60:73-85.

Week 5

February 19th

Family Background, Educational Achievement/Attainment (IV)

Sosniak, Lauren A. 2001. "The 9% Challenge: Education in School and Society." *TCRecord*.

Downey, Douglas B., Paul T. von Hippel, and Beckett A. Broh. 2004. Are Schools the Great Equalizer? Cognitive Inequality during the Summer Months and the School Year." *American Sociological Review* 69:613-35.

February 21st

Tracking and Ability Grouping (I)

Eder, Donna. 1981. "Ability Grouping as a Self-fulfilling Prophecy." *Sociology of Education* 54:151-62.

Barr, Rebecca and Robert Dreeben. 1983. *How Schools Work*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. and Dreeben. (Chapter 5 "Group Properties and Content Coverage," pages 105-125; Chapter 6 "Individual Learning," pages 126-151)

Week 6

February 26th

Tracking and Ability Grouping (II)

Hallinan, Maureen T. and Jeanie Oakes. 1994. Exchange with sub-articles titled "Tracking: From Theory to Practice" and "More than Misapplied Technology: A Normative and Political Response to Hallinan on Tracking." *Sociology of Education* 67:79-91.

Jencks, Christopher. 1988. "Whom Must We Treat Equally for Equality of Opportunity to be Equal?" *Ethics* 98:518-33.

February 28th – **NO CLASS**

First Paper Due 5pm Sunday, March 2nd, via Email

Week 7

March 4th

Accountability, Testing, and Retention (I)

U.S. Department of Education. 2004. "A Guide to Education and *No Child Left Behind*."

Sunderman, Gail L., James S. Kim, and Gary Orfield. 2005. *NCLB Meets School Realities: Lessons from the Field*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press. (Chapters 1, "When Federal Power is Expanded: The Politics of Implementing the No Child Left Behind Act")

Check out NY State School Report Cards:

Go to: <https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/Home.do>

California Department of Education. 2007. "Adequate Yearly Progress Report Information Guide."

March 6th

Accountability, Testing, and Retention (II)

Heubert, Jay P. and Robert M. Hauser, Eds. 1999. *High Stakes: Testing for Tracking, Promotion, and Graduation*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. (Chapter 4 "Tests as Measurements," Pp. 71-85; Chapter 5 "Tracking," Pp. 89-113; "Promotion and Retention" Pp. 114-162).

Sunderman, Gail L., James S. Kim, and Gary Orfield. 2005. *NCLB Meets School Realities: Lessons from the Field*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press. (Chapters 2, "Test-Based Accountability and the Achievement Gap").

U.S. Department of Education. 2007. "Building on Results: A Blueprint for Strengthening the *No Child Left Behind Act*."

Week 8

March 11th

School Effects and Resource Differentials (I)

Ravitch, Diane. 1993. "The Coleman Reports and American Education." Pp. 129-141 in *Social Theory and Social Policy: Essays in Honor of James S. Coleman*, edited

- by Aage B. Sørensen and Seymour Spilerman. Westport: Praeger.
- Coleman, James S. 1961. *The Adolescent Society*. New York: Free Press. (Chapter I, “The Emergence of an Adolescent Subculture” and Chapter II, “The Adolescent Culture,” pages 1-57).
- Mosteller, Frederick and Daniel P. Moynihan. 1972. “A Pathbreaking Report.” Pp. 3-34 in *On Equality of Educational Opportunity: Papers Deriving from the Harvard University Faculty Seminar on the Coleman Report*, edited by Frederick Mosteller and Daniel P. Moynihan. New York: Random House.

March 13th

School Effects and Resource Differentials (II)

- Hanushek, Eric A. 1996. “Measuring Investment in Education.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 10:9-30.
- Card, David and Alan B. Krueger. 1996. “School Resources and Student Outcomes: An Overview of the Literature and New Evidence from North and South Carolina.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 10:31-50.

SPRING BREAK

Week 9

March 25th

School Effects and Resource Differentials (III)

- Kozol, Jonathan. 1991. *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*. New York: Harper. (Chapter 6, “The Dream Deferred, Again, in San Antonio,” pages 206-233).
- Kozol, Jonathan. 2005. *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*. New York: Crown. (Chapter 2, “Hitting Them Hardest When They're Small”)
- Murnane, Richard J. and Frank Levy. 1996. “Evidence from Fifteen Schools in Austin, Texas.” Pp. 93-96 in Gary Burtless, Ed., *Does Money Matter? The Effect of School Resources on Student Achievement and Adult Success*. Washington, DC: Brookings.

March 27th

School Effects and Resource Differentials (IV)

- Heise, Michael. 2006. "Educational Adequacy as Legal Theory: Implications from Equal Educational Opportunity Doctrine." Cornell Legal Studies Research Paper 06-005.
- American Institutes of Research and Management Analysis and Planning, Inc. 2004. "The New York Adequacy Study: Determining the Cost of Providing All Children in New York an Adequate Education."
- Hanushek, Eric A. 2005. "Pseudo-Science and a Sound Basic Education: Voodoo Statistics in New York." *Education Next*, Fall 2005 issue, 67-73.
- New Jersey Department of Education. 2007. "A Formula for Success: All Children, All Communities"

Week 10

April 1st – NO CLASS

Second Paper Due 5pm Tuesday, April 1st, via Email

April 3rd

Segregation and Desegregation (I)

- Armor, David J. 1995. *Forced Justice: School Desegregation and the Law*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 1, "Desegregation Policy and the Law," pages 17-58)
- Orfield, Gary and Susan E. Eaton, Eds. 1996. *Dismantling Desegregation: The Quiet Reversal of Brown V. Board of Education*. New York: New Press: Distributed by W.W. Norton & Company. (Chapter 1, "Turning Back to Segregation," pages 1-22)

Week 11

April 8th

Segregation and Desegregation (II)

- Clotfelter, Charles T. 2004. *After Brown: The Rise and Retreat of School Desegregation*. Princeton: Princeton UP. (Chapter 2, "The Legacies of *Brown* and *Miliken*," pages 44-74; Chapter 3, "Residential Segregation and White Flight," pages 75-99)
- Massey, Douglas S. 2001. "Residential Segregation and Neighborhood conditions in U.S. Metropolitan Areas." Pp. 391-434 in *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences*, Volume 1, edited by Neil J. Smelser, William Julius Wilson,

and Faith Mitchell. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

April 10th

Segregation and Desegregation (III)

Armor, David J. 2002. "Desegregation and Achievement." Pp. 147-87 in Rossell, Christine H., David J. Armor, and Herbert J. Walberg, *School Desegregation in the 21st Century*. Westport: Praeger.

Wells, Amy Stuart and Robert L. Crain. 1994. "Perpetuation Theory and the Longterm Effects of School Desegregation." *Review of Educational Research* 64:531-55.

Week 12

April 15th

School Choice and Vouchers (I)

Hoffer, Thomas, Andrew M. Greeley, and James S. Coleman. 1985. "Achievement Growth in Public and Catholic Schools." *Sociology of Education* 58:74-97.

Coleman, James S. 1985. "Schools and the Communities They Serve." Reprinted as Chapter 20 in Coleman, James S. 1990. *Equality and Achievement in Education*. Boulder: Westview.

Coleman, James S. 1987. "Families and Schools." *Educational Researcher* 16:32-38.

April 17th

School Choice and Vouchers (II)

Chubb, John E. And Terry M. Moe. 1990. *Politics, Markets, and America's Schools*. Washington: Brookings. (Chapter 2, An Institutional Perspective on Schools)

Ladd, Helen F. 2002. "School Vouchers: A Critical View." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 16:3-24.

Week 13

April 22nd

School Choice and Vouchers (III)

Sunderman, Gail L., James S. Kim, and Gary Orfield. 2005. *NCLB Meets School Realities: Lessons from the Field*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press. (Chapter 3, "Does NCLB Provide Good Choices for Students in Underperforming

Schools?”)

Howell, William G. and Paul E. Peterson. 2002. *The Education Gap: Vouchers and Urban Schools*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press. (Chapter 2, “Evaluating Voucher Programs,” pages 28-55; Chapter 6, “The Urban Test Score Gap,” pages 140-167)

April 24th

Black-White Test Score Gap (I)

U.S. Dept of Education. “NAEP 2004 Trends in Academic Progress: Three Decades of Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics.”

Ferguson, Ronald F. 2001. “Test-Score Trends Along Racial Lines, 1971 to 1996: Popular Culture and Community Standards.” Pp. 348-390 in *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences*, Volume 1, edited by Neil J. Smelser, William Julius Wilson, and Faith Mitchell. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Jencks, Christopher. 1998. “Racial Bias in Testing.” Pp. 55-85 in *The Black-White Test Score Gap*, edited by Christopher Jencks and Meredith Phillips. Washington, DC: Brookings.

Week 14

April 29th

Black-White Test Score Gap (II)

Fordham, Signithia and John Ogbu, *Black Students' School Success: Coping with the Burden of “Acting White”*

Steele, Claude M. 1997. “A Threat in the Air: How Stereotypes Shape Intellectual Identity and Performance.” *American Psychologist* 52:613-629.

May 1st

Black-White Test Score Gap (III)

Thernstrom, Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom. 2002. “Schools That Work.” Pp. 131-56 in John E. Chubb and Tom Loveless, Eds., *Bridging the Achievement Gap*. Washington, DC: Brookings.

Summary Discussion

Final Paper Due 12 noon Thursday, May 15th, via Email