

**Sociology 699G: Poverty and Welfare  
(SOCY699G)**

3:30-6:10 PM Thursday, Art/Sociology Building 4111

Fall Semester 2005

Prof. John Iceland

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Office Hours: Thursday 1-3 and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Irving Smith; office hours by appointment

**Course Description and Goals**

This class examines the nature and extent of poverty in the United States. We review topics such as views of poverty, poverty measurement, the characteristics of the poverty population, international comparisons, underlying causes of poverty, and government policies that address poverty.

The types of questions we focus on include the following: How have views of poverty evolved? What are the different methods people use to measure and understand poverty? Who are the poor? Why does poverty remain so pervasive? How do economic processes contribute to poverty? Are people from particular racial and ethnic backgrounds or family types inevitably more likely to be poor? What are the goals and purposes of social welfare programs? What are the limits of policy?

In addition to learning current theoretical and empirical information about poverty, students are expected to write an analytical paper on a topic related to poverty. The purpose here is to encourage students to undertake their own research with a goal of producing a potentially publishable journal article. We will have intermediate milestones during the semester that will help guide and structure the production of the final paper.

**Reading Materials:** There are four required reading materials for the class. The three books are available at the University Book Center and the Maryland Book Exchange, while the Course Packet is available on-line through the UMD library course reserves; it is password protected.

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ISBN: 0520239598

Danziger, Sheldon and Robert Haveman (Eds.). 2002. *Understanding Poverty*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. ISBN: 0674008766

Patterson, James T. 2000. *America's Struggle against Poverty in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. ISBN: 0674004345

SOCY699G Course Packet: available on-line through the UMD library course reserves

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Class participation (25%)
2. 1-2 page reading summaries each week (20%)
3. Final paper (55%)
  - a. Prospectus and broad outline (10%). Due September 29.
  - b. Draft (15%). Due November 17.
  - c. Paper presentations (5%). December 1.
  - d. Final draft (25%). Due December 15.

**1.** Class participation and discussion are a vital part of this class. Students will be expected to actively participate every week. One student will be responsible for keeping class discussion flowing each week. Sign up will occur in the first week.

**2.** Weekly one to two page reading summaries are assigned to help students keep a record of course content and basic themes covered each week. These assignments are particularly important for students to keep a record of issues covered in lieu of midterms or a final exam. Summaries are to be handed in at the beginning of each class. Students are allowed 1 bye over the course of the semester when they do not have to turn in summaries.

**3.** The purpose of the final paper is for students to get experience writing a journal-length analytical research paper (about 20-25 pages) on a course-related issue that could be submitted to a journal. The following assignments are intended to help students conceptualize their research idea, plan and implement appropriate analyses, and to interpret, evaluate, and communicate findings.

#### **A. Prospectus: Due September 29**

1. Identify the topic you propose to investigate.
  - Why is the topic important? Briefly describe what has already been done on this topic. **Pose research question(s) that will guide your analysis.** What hypotheses will be tested? What will your proposed research add to what is already known? What areas will be included in the literature: i.e., who are the social scientists whose publications you will read, what journals will you scan, what keywords will you use to search for research on your topic?
2. What are possible methods or statistical procedures that you think would be appropriate to implement in your investigation?
3. What journal (or journals) do you consider to be appropriate targets to which you might submit your manuscript?
4. Make a broad outline of the paper (list the sections).
  - Each student will make a 5-10 minute oral presentation in order to obtain feedback from other members of the class.

#### **B. Draft: Due November 17**

This draft should be as complete as possible. Include at least some results.

### **C. Paper presentations: December 1 and 8**

Discuss conceptual issues, methods, results, conclusions, and avenues for future research (about 15-20 minutes).

### **D. Final Draft: Due December 15**

## **CLASS OUTLINE**

### **Part I: Overview**

September 1: Introduction and overview of main concepts

### **Part II. Views, measurement, and characteristics of the poverty population**

September 8: Views of poverty in history

September 15: Measurement and meaning of poverty

September 22: Characteristics of the poverty population and the geography of poverty

September 29: Poverty dynamics and consequences of growing up poor

October 6: Poverty in the international context

### **Part III. Causes**

October 13: Causes of poverty: economic processes

October 20: Causes of poverty: social stratification

October 27: Causes of poverty: family structure, race, and culture

November 3: Causes of poverty: immigration issues

### **Part IV. Policy and conclusion**

November 10: Policy: past and current welfare programs

November 17: Policy: effects of welfare reform and anti-poverty policy

December 1: Policy: what's next? / class presentations

December 8: Presentations

### **December 15: Final paper due**

Students should submit all assignments on WebCT at: <http://www.courses.umd.edu/>. Those who do not already have a WebCT account should open one at the web address above.

All assignments are due on the date specified. No late work will be accepted without penalty. Exceptions can be made if you are ill (with physician's certification), have a family emergency (also with written proof), or are excused beforehand due to an officially documented conflicting activity for which your presence is essential.

**Accommodating students with disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss accommodations, please contact me by the second class session.

**Students requiring religious accommodation:** If you need academic accommodation by virtue of your religion (e.g. missing a class, rescheduling an examination), please see me as soon as possible to discuss your needs.

### **Code of Academic Integrity**

The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, administered by the Student Honor Council. The University's Code of Academic Integrity is designed to ensure that the principles of academic integrity are upheld. All students are expected to adhere to this Code. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Judicial Programs and Student Ethical Development immediately. See <http://www.jpo.umd.edu> for clarification, if needed.

### **Class Schedule (Tentative) and Readings**

(B)= reading in a required text book

(P)= in course packet (available on WebCT)

(I)= Internet address provided

(A)= link to the article is available on-line through Academic Search Premier and linked UMD library search engines.

### **September 1: Course overview, introductions, and discussion of basic themes**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 1: pp. 1-9. (B)

### **September 8: Views of poverty in history**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 2: pp. 10-19. (B)

Patterson, James T. 2000. *America's Struggle against Poverty in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapters 1, 3, 5-6: pp. 3-18, 37-54, 76-111. (B)

O'Connor, Alice. 2001. *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction: pp. 3-22. (P)

NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Poll. 2001. *Poverty in America*. See summary at: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=13806>. See also: <http://www.npr.org/programs/specials/poll/poverty/> and follow link to "View the results" to look through specific topics.

### **September 15: The measurement and meaning of poverty**

Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books, Chapter 4 (“Poverty as Capability Deprivation”): 87-110. **(P)**

Brady, David. 2003. “Rethinking the Sociological Measurement of Poverty.” *Social Forces*, 81(3):715-751. **(A)**

Iceland, John. Forthcoming. “Measuring Poverty: Theoretical and Empirical Considerations.” *Measurement*. **(P)** (~30 pages + appendix)

Micklewright, John. 2002. “Social Exclusion and Children: A European view for a US debate.” Center for Analysis and Social Exclusion paper #51 (February), London School of Economics: 1-35. <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper51.pdf>. **(I)**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 3: pp. 20-37. **(Optional—much of this reading is in the Iceland article above)**

Bernstein, Jared, Chauna Brocht, and Maggie Spade-Aguilar. 2000. *How Much Is Enough?: Basic Family Budgets for Working Families*. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, pp. 15-46, 60-63. **(Optional)**

National Research Council. 1995. *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*, edited by Constance F. Citro and Robert T. Michael. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, pp. 17-39. <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309051282/html/index.html>. **(Optional)**

Beverly, Sondra G. 2001. “Measures of Material Hardship: Rationale and Recommendations.” *Journal of Poverty* 5, 1: 23-41. **(Optional)**

Iceland, John. 2005. “The CNSTAT Workshop on Experimental Poverty Measures, June 2004.” *Focus* 23, 3 (Spring): 26-30. **(Optional)**

World Bank. 2001. *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty/report/index.htm>, Chapter 1: pp. 15-21. **(Optional)**

## **September 22: Characteristics of the poverty population and the geography of poverty**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 4: pp. 38-59 (except pp. 48-51). **(B)**

DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette Proctor, and Cheryl Hill Lee. 2005. *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004*. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P60-229, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. *Focus on Press Briefing*: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income04/prs05asc.html> **(I)**

Jargowsky, Paul A. 2003. *Stunning Progress, Hidden Problems: The Dramatic Decline of Concentrated Poverty in the 1990s*. The Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy report, Living Cities Census Series.

<http://www.brook.edu/es/urban/publications/jargowskypoverty.pdf>. (24 pages) **(I)**

Bauman, Kurt J. 2003. *Extended Measures of Well-Being: Living Conditions in the United States: 1998*. Current Population Reports, Series P70-87, Washington, DC: U.S.

Government Printing Office: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p70-87.pdf> (17 pages). **(I)**

O'Hare, William P. and Kenneth M. Johnson. 2004. *Child Poverty in Rural America*. Population Reference Bureau Reports on America (March):

<http://www.prb.org/pdf04/ChildPovertyRuralAmerica.pdf> (19 pages) **(I)**

Burtless, Gary, and Timothy M. Smeeding. 2001. "The Level, Trend, and Composition of Poverty." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman.

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 1: 36-68. **(B) (Optional)**

### **September 29: Poverty dynamics and consequences of growing up poor Prospectus and broad outline due**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 4: pp. 48-51. **(B)**

Corcoran, Mary. 2001. "Mobility, Persistence, and the Consequences of Poverty for Children:

Child and Adult Outcomes." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001, Chapter 1: 127-161. **(B)**

Rank, Mark R. and Thomas Hirschl. 2001. "Rags or Riches? Estimating the Probabilities of Poverty and Affluence across the Adult American Life Span." *Social Science Quarterly* 82, 4 (December): 651-669. **(A)**

Musick, Kelly and Robert D. Mare. 2004. "Family Structure, Intergenerational Mobility, and the Reproduction of Poverty: Evidence for Increasing Polarization?" *Demography*, 41(4):629-648. **(A)**

Iceland, John. 2003. "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 1996-1999." Current Population Reports, Series P70-91, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p70-91.pdf>. (9 pages) **(I) (Optional)**

Lichter, Daniel T., and Martha L. Crowley. 2002. "Poverty in America: Beyond Welfare Reform." *Population Bulletin* 57, 2 (June). <http://www.prb.org/>. (Follow links to PRB library at top, to Population Bulletins, and year), pp. 24-28 **(I) (Optional)**

## **October 6: Poverty in the international context**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 4: pp. 59-69. **(B)**

Smeeding, Timothy, Lee Rainwater, and Gary Burtless. 2001. "U.S. Poverty in a Cross-national Context." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 5: 162-189. **(B)**

World Bank. 2001. *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press,  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20194762~menuPK:435375~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html> , Overview and Chapter 1: pp. 1-29. **(I)**

Firebaugh, Glenn and Brian Goesling. 2004. "Accounting for the Recent Decline in Global Income Inequality." *American Journal of Sociology* 110(2):283-312. **(A)**

Moller, Stephanie, Evelyne Huber, John D. Stephens, David Bradley, and Francois Nielson. 2003. "Determinants of Relative Poverty in Advanced Capitalist Democracies." *American Sociological Review* 68, 1 (Feb): 22-51. **(Optional)**

Brady, David. 2003. "The Politics of Poverty: Left Political Institutions, the Welfare State, and Poverty." *Social Forces*, 82(2):557-88. **(Optional)**

Narayan, Deepa, Raj Patel , Kai Schafft , Anne Rademacher , Sara Koch-Schulte. 2000. *Can Anyone Hear Us? (Voices of the Poor series)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 2: pp. 26-51. <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices/reports/canany/ch2.pdf>. **(I) (Optional)**

## **October 13: Causes of poverty: economic processes**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 5: pp. 70-79. **(B)**

World Bank. 2001. *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press,  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20194762~menuPK:435375~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html> , Chapter 3: pp. 45-59. **(I)**

Iceland, John and Lane Kenworthy. Unpublished. "Macroeconomic Performance and Poverty in the 1980s and 1990s: A State-Level Analysis." **(P)** (~30 pages)

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 2001. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*. New York: Metropolitan Books, Introduction and Chapter 1: pp. 1-49. **(P)**

Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Chapter 2: pp. 25-50. **(Optional)**

Danziger, Sheldon and Peter Gottschalk. 2005. *Diverging Fortunes: Trends in Poverty and Inequality*. Population Reference Bureau, The American People Series (January). **(Optional)**

Harvey, Philip. 2003. "Understanding the Unemployment Experience of Low-Wage Workers: Implications for Ethnographic Research." In *Laboring Below the Line*, edited by Frank Munger. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, pp. 95-110. **(Optional)**

Bluestone, Barry and Bennett Harrison. 2000. *Growing Prosperity: The Battle for Growth with Equity in the Twenty-first Century*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, Ch 1: pp. 1-26. **(Optional)**

Freeman, Richard B. 2001. "The Rising Tide Lifts...?." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 3: pp. 97-126. **(B) (Optional)**

### **October 20: Causes of poverty: social stratification**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 5: pp. 79-94. **(B)**

Schiller, Bradly R. 2001. *The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Eighth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Chapters 9-10: 154-191. **(P)**

Blau, Francine D., Marianne A. Ferber, and Anne E. Winkler. 1998. *The Economics of Women, Men, and Work*. Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Chapter 7: pp. 185-233. **(P)**

Hunt, Matthew O. 2004. "Race/Ethnicity and Beliefs about Wealth and Poverty." *Social Science Quarterly* 85(3):827-53. **(A)**

Loury, Glenn C. 2001. "Politics, Race, and Poverty Research." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 13: pp. 447-453. **(B)**

### **October 27: Causes of poverty: family structure, race, and culture**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapters 5 and 6: pp. 94-117. **(B)**

Cancian, Maria, and Deborah Reed. 2001. "Changes in Family Structure: Implications for Poverty and Related Policy." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001, Chapter 2: 69-96. (B)

Rector, Robert, Kirk A. Johnson, and Patrick F. Fagan. 2002. "The Effect of Marriage on Child Poverty." The Heritage Foundation, Center for Data Analysis Report #02-04, April 15, 2002. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=8012> (10 pages) (I)

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. 2000. "Child Poverty in Rich Nations." *Innocenti Report Card* No. 1, June 2000: *focus on pp. 1-2, 11, top of page 13*. See: <http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/>. Follow links to search catalog, by series, and Innocenti report cards, and download pdfs. (I)

Patterson, James T. 2000. *America's Struggle against Poverty in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 7: pp. 112-121. (B)

Schiller, Bradley R. 2001. *The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Eighth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Chapters 7: 125-140. (Optional)

### **November 3: Causes of poverty: immigration issues**

Van Hook, Jennifer, Susan L Brown, and Maxwell Ndigume Kwenda. 2004. "A Decomposition of Trends in Poverty among Children of Immigrants." *Demography* 41(4):649-670. (A)

Samuelson, Robert J. 2004. "The Changing Face of Poverty." *Newsweek*, 10/18/2004, 144(16): 50. (A)

Camarota, Steven A. 1999. *Immigration's Impact on the Size and Growth of the Poor Population in the United States*. Center for Immigration Studies Paper # 15 (September): [http://cis.org/articles/poverty\\_study/povstudy.pdf](http://cis.org/articles/poverty_study/povstudy.pdf) (I) (66 pages-- focus on **pages 1-29** and conclusion, **48-51**).

Chapman, Jeff and Jared Bernstein. 2002. *Disappointing income growth in the 1990s not solely the result of growing immigrant population*. Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper #130 (September): [http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/briefingpapers\\_bp130](http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/briefingpapers_bp130) (I) (10 pages).

Kazemipur, Abdolmohammad and Shiva Halli. 2000. "The Colour of Poverty: A Study of the Poverty of Ethnic and Immigrant Groups in Canada." *International Migration* 38(1):69-88. (A)

### **November 10: Policy: past and current welfare programs in the U.S.**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 7: pp. 118-133. (B)

Scholz, John Karl and Kara Levine. 2001. "The Evolution of Income Support Policy in Recent Decades." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001, Chapter 6: 193-210. (B)

Pavetti, Ladonna A. "Welfare Policy in Transition: Redefining the Social Contract for Poor Citizen Families with Children and for Immigrants." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001, Chapter 7: 229-277. (B)

Patterson, James T. 2000. *America's Struggle against Poverty in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 8-14: pp. 193-244. (B)

**November 17: Policy: effects of welfare reform and anti-poverty policy**  
**First draft of final paper due**

Moffitt, Robert. 2002. "From Welfare to Work: What the Evidence Shows." The Brookings Institution Policy Brief No. 13 (January). (7 pages)  
<http://www.brookings.edu/es/research/projects/wrb/publications/pb/pb13.htm>. (I)

Scholz, John Karl and Kara Levine. 2001. "The Evolution of Income Support Policy in Recent Decades." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001, Chapter 6: 210-228. (B)

Sawhill, Isabel and Ron Haskins. 2002. *Welfare Reform and the Work Support System*. The Brookings Institution Welfare and Beyond Brief, #17, March. (~11 pages)  
<http://www.brookings.edu/es/research/projects/wrb/publications/pb/pb17.htm>. (I)

Child Trends. 2002. "The Unfinished Business of Welfare Reform: Improving Prospects for Poor Children and Youth." Child Trends Special Report (April). (21 pages)  
<http://www.childtrends.org/files/UnfinishedBusinessofWR.pdf> (I)

Hofferth, Sandra L., Stephan Stanhope, and Kathleen Mullan Harris. 2005. "Remaining off Welfare in the 1990s: The Influence of Public Policy and Economic Conditions." *Social Science Research* 34:426-53. (A)

**December 1: Policy: What's next? / class presentations**

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapters 7-8: pp. 134-141. (B)

Waldfoegel, Jane. 2001. "Research on Poverty and Antipoverty Policies." In *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Sheldon Danziger and Robert Haveman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Chapter 15: pp. 467-472. (B)

Besharov, Douglas J. 2003. "The Past and Future of Welfare Reform." *The Public Interest* (Winter). <http://www.thepublicinterest.com>. (About 10 pages). (I)

Lawson, Roger, and William Julius Wilson. 1996. "Poverty, Social Rights, and the Quality of Citizenship." In *Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy*. Eds. Katherine McFate, Roger Lawson, and William Julius Wilson. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, Chapter 23: 693-714. (P)

Katz, Michael B. 2001. *The Price of Citizenship: Redefining the American Welfare State*. New York: Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Company, Epilogue: pp. 340-359. (P)

**December 10: Class presentations**

**December 15: Final paper due**