Sociology 666: Poverty and Welfare
(SOCY666)

3:30-6:10 PM Tuesday, Art/Sociology Building 3221

Fall Semester 2007

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3 and 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.

DeParle, Jason. 2005. *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare*. New York: Penguin Press. ISBN: 0143034375

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*, 2nd Edition. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ISBN: 0520248414

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

SOCY666 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 October 2.
    b. Draft (15%). Due November 27.
    c. Paper presentations (5%). December 4 and 11.
    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.

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 a summary.

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 their findings.

A. Prospectus: Due October 2

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 might 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. Construct a broad outline of the paper (list the sections).

B. Draft: Due November 27

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

C. Paper presentations: December 4 and 11

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 4: Course overview, introductions, and discussion of basic themes

Part II. Views, measurement, and characteristics of the poverty population
September 11: Views of poverty in history
September 18: Measurement and meaning of poverty
September 25: Characteristics of the poor population and the dynamics of poverty
October 2: Poverty in the international context
October 9: No Class!

Part III. Causes
October 16: Causes of poverty: economic processes
October 23: Causes of poverty: social stratification
October 30: Causes of poverty: family structure and culture
November 6: Causes of poverty: immigration issues

Part IV. Policy and conclusion
November 13: Policy: past and current welfare programs
November 20: Policy: effects of welfare reform and anti-poverty policies
November 27: Policy: current directions
December 4: Presentations
December 11: Presentations

December 15: Final paper due

Students should submit all assignments on Blackboard at: http://www.elms.umd.edu/. Those who do not already have a Blackboard 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 via UMD library electronic course reserves)
(I)= Internet address provided
(A)= link to the article is available on-line through Academic Search Premier and linked UMD library search engines.
*Occasionally other directions are provided about where to retrieve the readings.

September 4: Course overview, introductions, and discussion of basic themes

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 1: pp. 1-9. **(B)**

September 11: Views of poverty in history

Iceland, John. 2006. *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)**

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. (5 pages) **(I)**

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)**

White, Lynn. 2005. "Writes of Passage: Writing an Empirical Journal Article" *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67, 4: 791-798. **(A)**

Matthews, Sarah H. 2005. "Crafting Qualitative Research Articles on Marriages and Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67, 4: 799-808. **(Optional)**

September 18: **Measurement and meaning of poverty**

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

Iceland, John. 2005. "Measuring Poverty: Theoretical and Empirical Considerations." *Measurement* 3, 4: 199-235. (Skip the appendix) **(A)**

Rejoinders:

Books, Sue. 2005. "We Need a More 'Socially Relevant' Metric." *Measurement* 3, 4: 242-247. **(A)**

Jesuit, David K. 2005. "Comparative Policy Approaches to Understanding Poverty." *Measurement* 3, 4: 248-252. **(A)**

Lichter, Daniel T. 2005. "In Search of the 'Best' Poverty Measure." *Measurement* 3, 4: 261-266. **(A)**

Smeeding, Timothy M. 2005. "Measuring Poverty and Deprivation in a United States Context: Some Additional Considerations." *Measurement* 3, 4: 266-268. **(A)**

Iceland, John. 2005. "Measuring Poverty: A Rejoinder." *Measurement* 3, 4: 269-74. **(A)**

DeParle, Jason. 2006. "Orphaned." *New York Times Magazine*, August 27, 2006. (~5 pages) **(Available in the Course Readings folder in Blackboard)**

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

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. **(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 25: Characteristics of the poor population and the dynamics of poverty

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 4: pp. 38-59. **(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)**

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 4: 127-161. **(P)**

Boo, Katherine. 2006. "Swamp Nurse." *The New Yorker*, February 6: 54-65 **(A)**

October 2: Poverty in the international context
Prospectus and broad outline due

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 4: pp. 59-69. **(B)**

Sawhill, Isabel and John E. Morton. 2007. "Economic Mobility: Is the American Dream Alive and Well?" Economic Mobility Project, The Pew Charitable Trusts Report, http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/EMP%20American%20Dream%20Report.pdf. (12 pages) **(I)**

Korzeniewicz**,** Roberto and Timothy Moran. 2005. "Theorizing the Relationship Between Inequality and Economic Growth." *Theory and Society* 34, 3: 277-316. **(A)**

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

Kristof, Nicholas. 2007. "Wretched of the Earth." *New York Review of Books*, 5/31/2007, Vol. 54 Issue 9 (May 31): 34-36**. (Available in the Course Readings folder in Blackboard)**

Ferguson, Niall. 2007. "The Least Among Us." *New York Times Sunday Review of Books* July 1, 2007. (~5 pages) **(Available in the Course Readings folder in Blackboard)**

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)**

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://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPOVERTY/Resources/335642-1124115102975/1555199-1124115187705/ch2.pdf **(I) (Optional)**

October 9: NO CLASS!

October 16: Causes of poverty: economic processes

Iceland, John. 2006. *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:20195989~menuPK:435375~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html, Chapter 3: pp. 45-59. **(I)**

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

Tritch, Teresa. July 19, 2006. "The Rise of the Super Rich" *New York Times Magazine*. (~8 pages) **(Available in the Course Readings folder in Blackboard)**

Dynan, Karen E., Douglas W. Elmendorf, and Daniel E. Sichel. 2007. "The Evolution of Household Income Volatility." The Brookings Institution, Economic Studies Working Paper. **(Optional)**

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)**

October 23: Causes of poverty: social stratification

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 5: pp. 79-94. **(B)**

Conley, Dalton. 2003. "Being Black, Living in the Red: Race, Wealth, and Social Policy in America." In *Wealth and Poverty in America: A Reader*, edited by Dalton Conley. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, Chapter 8, pp 83-95. **(P)**

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

McDonald, Judith A. and Robert J. Thornton. 2007. "Do New male and Female College Graduates Receive Unequal Pay?" *Journal of Human Resources* 42, 1: 32-48. **(Use the "Igenta" UMD library search engine from the Research Port, find the *Journal of Human Resources*, and then look for the article in the appropriate volume and issue)**

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

October 30: Causes of poverty: family structure and culture

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapters 5 and 6: pp. 94-117. **(B)**

Rector, Robert, Kirk A. Johnson, and Patrick F. Fagan. 2003. "Increasing Marriage Would Dramatically Reduce Child Poverty." The Heritage Foundation, Center for Data Analysis Report #03-06, May 20, 2003. http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/cda0306.cfm (a few pages) **(I)**

Ludwig, Jens and Susan Mayer. 2006. "Culture" and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty: The Prevention Paradox." *The Future of Children*, 16, 2: 175-196. **(JSTOR)**

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

Thomas, Adam and Isabel Sawhill. 2006. "For Love and Money? The Impact of Family Structure on Family Income." *The Future of Children* 15, 2: 55-74 **(JSTOR)**

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

November 6: Causes of poverty: immigration issues

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 **(I) (**66 pages-- focus on **pages 1-29** and conclusion, **48-51**).

Hernandez, Donald J. 2004. "Demographic Change and the Life Circumstances of Immigrant Families." *Future of Children* 14, 2: 17-47. **(JSTOR)**

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)**

November 13: Policy: past and current welfare programs in the U.S.

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 7: pp. 118-132. **(B)**

DeParle, Jason. 2005. *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare*. New York: Penguin Press, pp. 1-154. **(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. **(Optional)**

November 20: Policy: effects of welfare reform and anti-poverty policies

Iceland, John. 2003. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapter 7: pp. 132-133. **(B)**

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)**

DeParle, Jason. 2005. *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare*. New York: Penguin Press, pp. 155-322. **(B)**

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)**

Brady, David. 2005. "The Welfare State and Relative Poverty in Rich Western Democracies, 1967-1997." *Social Forces* 83, 4: 1329-1364. **(Optional)**

November 27: Policy: current directions
First draft of final paper due

DeParle, Jason. 2005. *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare*. New York: Penguin Press, pp. 323-338. **(B)**

Iceland, John. 2006. *Poverty in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Chapters 7-8: pp. 134-141. **(B)**

Horn, Wade F. 2001. "Wedding Bell Blues: Marriage and Welfare Reform." *The Brookings Review* 19(3): 39-42. http://www.brookings.edu/press/review/summer2001/horn.htm **(I)** (4 pages)

Lichter, Daniel T. 2001. "Marriage as Public Policy." Progressive Policy Institute, Policy Report (September). http://www.ppionline.org/documents/marriage_lichter.pdf **(I)** (12 pages)

Coontz, Stephanie and Nancy Folbre. 2002. "Marriage, Poverty, and Public Policy." *The American Prospect* 13(13). http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=marriage_poverty_and_public_policy **(I)** (~12 pages)

Seccombe, Karen. 2007. *Families in Poverty*. New York: Pearson. Chapter 7, 163-182. **(P)**

December 4: Class presentations

December 11: Class presentations

December 15: Final paper due