SOCIAL CLASS

Social Stratification
The relatively fixed, hierarchical arrangements in society by which groups have different access to resources, power, and perceived social worth.

Three types of stratification:
1. Estate System
2. Caste System
3. Class System

Class is...
The social structural position groups hold relative to the economic, social, political, and cultural resources of society.

- Indicators of class: income, education, occupation, place of residence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Class</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Percentage of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Prestige university</td>
<td>Insurance and banking</td>
<td>$200,000+</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper</td>
<td>College or university, often with postgraduate study</td>
<td>Professionals and upper managers</td>
<td>$100,000+</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>A high school; perhaps some college or apprenticeship</td>
<td>Nonprofessional and lower managers, clerical, service</td>
<td>About $40,000</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High school</td>
<td>Factory workers, clerical workers, low-level retail sales, and custodial workers</td>
<td>About $30,000</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>Laborers, service workers, low-paid nonwhite-collar employees</td>
<td>About $18,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>Unemployed and part-time, on welfare</td>
<td>About $18,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underclass</td>
<td>Some high school</td>
<td>Unemployed and part-time, on welfare</td>
<td>About $18,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Consequences of Social Class**
- Family
- Politics
- Religion
- Health
- Mental Health
- New Technology

**Distribution of Wealth and Income**
- Wealth: monetary value of everything owned.
- Income: the amount of money brought into a household.

**Social Mobility**
- A person’s movement over time from one class to another.
- Changes in society that cause large numbers of people to move up or down the class ladder.

**Class Consciousness is...**
- The perception that a class structure exists AND the feeling of shared identification with others in one’s class.

**Race and Ethnicity**
- Race: a group with inherited physical characteristics that distinguish it from other groups.
- With a population of 6 billion, a rich diversity of human shapes and colors exist.
RACE: Reality or Myth?

Two persistent race myths:
1. One race is superior to another.
2. “Pure” races exist.

Racism is not a myth!

Ethnicity

- Race applies to biological characteristics, Ethnicity applies to cultural characteristics.

Understanding Ethnicity

A High Sense of Ethnicity

A Low Sense of Ethnicity

A Numerical Majority
Greater Power
No Discrimination

Smaller Numbers
Lesser Power
Discrimination

Minority & Dominant Groups

- Minority groups: people who are singled out for unequal treatment, and who view themselves as objects of collective discrimination.
- Dominant group: not necessarily the numerical majority, but the group with power, privileges, and social status.
Prejudice & Discrimination

• Prejudice is an attitude.
  – Ethnocentrism: the belief that one’s group is superior to all other groups

• Discrimination is an action.
  – when discrimination is the based on race, it is known as racism.

Discrimination

• Discrimination occurs at two levels:
  – Individual: negative treatment of one person by another.

WHITE PRIVILEGE

• the preferential treatment, on an individual, institutional, and cultural level, to individuals whose ancestors came from Europe over people whose ancestors came from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Arab world AND exempts European Americans from the forms of racial and national oppression inflicted upon people whose ancestors are not from Europe.

Socially invisible structures of oppression are more effective and enduring than socially visible ones

Such as:

Race and Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Whites</th>
<th>AAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Deaths</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>73 years</td>
<td>65 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>80 years</td>
<td>74 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Harlem

Men beyond the age of 40 have a lower survival rate than in Bangladesh, the lowest income country in the world.

Why?

Where else is White Privilege?

• Education- after Brown vs The Board of Education are schools equal?
• Legal system?
• Sports?
• Jobs?
• Housing?

What Can I Do As A Social Worker?

• Adhere to the “strength perspective” and empowerment. *see article by Seleeby or p. 53 in text.
• Know your biases. We are usually unaware of our own biases. Go to https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/.
• Challenge yourself to be open to learning about other groups (racial, ethnic, gender, religion) different from your own.