

SOCIOLOGY 1101 EXAM 2 STUDY GUIDE

ECONOMICS

Income Inequality in the U.S.

- In the past 45 years, the lowest 20% of households in income never received more than 5.3% of overall US income, while the highest 20% has always received 40% or more
- The income gap between high-income and low-income individuals has increased dramatically over the last 30 years

RACE AND ETHNICITY

The Myth of Race

- Race
 - A socially constructed category of people who share physical characteristics that members of a society consider important
 - Imposed, socially constructed, hierarchical, exclusive, and unequal
- Ethnicity
 - Cultural practices and attitudes that set people apart
 - Voluntary, self-defined, nonhierarchical, cultural, and not so closely linked with power differences

Racism

- Racism:
 - A form of prejudice based on the belief that one racial category is innately superior or inferior to another
- Institutional racism:
 - System in which bias is built into the operation of society's institutions and produces unequal outcomes for different groups, even if actual policies are race-neutral

SOCIOLOGY 1101 EXAM 2 STUDY GUIDE

- Produces inequality in outcomes even if there is no overt racial equality in opportunity

Prejudice & Discrimination

- Prejudice:
 - o A rigid generalization about an entire category of people; An attitude or opinion
 - Product of culture; stereotypes are common
- Racial/Ethnic Discrimination:
 - o Unequal treatment of people deemed inferior on the basis of their racial or ethnic category; Behavior/Action
 - By definition, it is enacted against a minority group
 - Minority group:
 - Group that, because of its distinct physical or cultural characteristics, is set apart and subordinated

Are we a post-racial society?

- Although overtly racist beliefs may no longer be socially acceptable, to what extent does race continue to influence our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors?
- Race IAT

Minority-Majority Group Relations

- Four Broad categories
 - o Integration
 - Pluralism
 - Assimilation
 - o Conflict
 - Segregation
 - Genocide

SOCIOLOGY 1101 EXAM 2 STUDY GUIDE

Conflict: Segregation

- Segregation
 - o The legal or social practice of separating people on the basis of their race or ethnicity; maintains position of dominant group
 - Official U.S. policy until 1960's
 - De Facto (in practice) residential & educational segregation still exists
 - Preferences of minority groups vs. discrimination

How race matters: Inequality

- Educational Attainment
- Employment, Income and Wealth
- Political Power
- Family (later)
- Health (later)

Race and Education

- 84.1% of African Americans have high school degrees (only 20% in 1960) compared to 87.1% of whites
- 29.9% of whites graduate from college, but only 19.3 of African Americans do
- Only 13.2% of Hispanics hold a college degree

Unemployment and Income

- Unemployment rate
 - o Twice as high for blacks as for whites (2011)
- Poverty rate
 - o Nearly 3 time higher for blacks (24.2%) and Hispanics (20.3%) then whites (9%)