Course Objectives

This course will examine the relationships between education and society by reviewing a variety of theoretical perspectives and empirical studies. Topics include social mobility and stratification; social reproduction; the dynamics of race, class, and gender in education; social capital; the student teacher relationship; teaching as a profession; school choice; and higher education.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to write two papers for this course and three smaller response papers.

Paper #1: A paper on the implications for equality of educational opportunity based on the comparison of two schools. I would like you to choose two high schools, elementary schools, or middle schools and compare them based on information (i.e. racial composition, expenditures per student, tests scores, school report cards, etc…) you find online. About 3-4 pages of the paper should be dedicated to the descriptions of the schools (use of graphs and tables are encouraged but not required) and the remaining pages should discuss the implications for equality of educational opportunity.

The following website will be helpful http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/htmls/k12.html but you can use any other sources as well.

This paper is due September 27th at the beginning of class and should be no more than eight double spaced pages.

Three Response Papers: Response papers should cover the week’s readings (3 topics of your choice). You should aim at writing a discussion organized around a key idea or set of ideas, not a summary of the readings. In particular, it is often better not to discuss the
readings one by one, but to try to make connections between them and work toward a few general conclusions. Response papers should be about 3-4 double-spaced pages. Papers are due the day we discuss the topic you have chosen (i.e. if you choose to write a response paper on “Theories on Educational Stratification,” the paper is due September 6th).

**Final Paper:** The final paper should cover the importance of race/ethnicity, gender, and class and its relationship to educational institutions and/or schooling careers. The topic for the final paper is more open-ended and you are encouraged to focus on your own research interests or a specific topic from class readings. The final paper should be no more than 12 double spaced pages in length.

Students will be graded by the following formula:

- Paper #1: 20%
- 3 Response Papers: 30%
- Final Paper: 40%
- Class Participation: 10%

In addition, students must do the readings in time for class and be prepared to discuss the material. Readings are on electronic reserve and many are available online at [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

**E-Reserve website:** [http://ereserves.indiana.edu/course.index.asp](http://ereserves.indiana.edu/course.index.asp)

Password: squirrel

I have ordered the following books and they should be available at the bookstore:

- *Home Advantage*
- *Keeping Track*
- *Savage Inequalities*
- *The Structure of Schooling*

**Course Schedule**

**August 30: Introduction to the Sociology of Education**


Schneider, Barbara. 2003. “Sociology of Education: An Overview of the Field at the

**September 6: Theories on Educational Stratification**


**September 13: Equality of Educational Opportunity**


**September 20: Desegregation**


**September 27: Inequality and Class**

**Paper #1 Due**


**October 4: Inequality and Race**


**October 11: Latino Experience**

Video: “Lost in Translation: Latinos, Schools, and Society”


October 18: Inequality and Gender


October 25: Tracking


November 1: Social Networks


**November 8: Teaching as a Profession**


**November 15: Student Teacher Relationship**


**November 22: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**November 29: School Choice**


December 6: Higher Education


Final Paper due December 12th by 5pm