

- Agenda**
- 1. Administrative
 - 2. Midterm details
 - 3. Course roadmap
 - 4. Inequality & mobility
 - 5. Social divisions & class

Synthesis essays

- ⋮ Please do *not* include your name on your submission

- ⋮ 11:59pm deadline is *strict*

Peer evaluation tool cannot allow late submissions

- ⋮ **Submit your essay on Mycourses:**

Content > Synthesis essays > Synthesis essay 1

When/where

- ⋮ In-class: Friday, Feb 21 starting at 1:05pm
- ⋮ You have until the end of class (2:25), but the exam is designed for about 60 minutes
- ⋮ You will be given the exam and your group's reference sheet
- ⋮ Answer on the exam
- ⋮ You may not use any other notes or any electronic devices

Format

- ⋮ 10 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each
- ⋮ 3 short-answer questions worth 10 points each
4 options, choose 3
- ⋮ **50 points total**

Multiple choice

- ⋮ University requires randomization of question and option order

Example

According to Karl Marx, class divisions in society are due to people's relation to which institution?

- A) Economic production B) Governance structure
C) Military / police force D) Educational system

Short answer

- ∴ You will be given *four questions*, you should *choose three to answer*

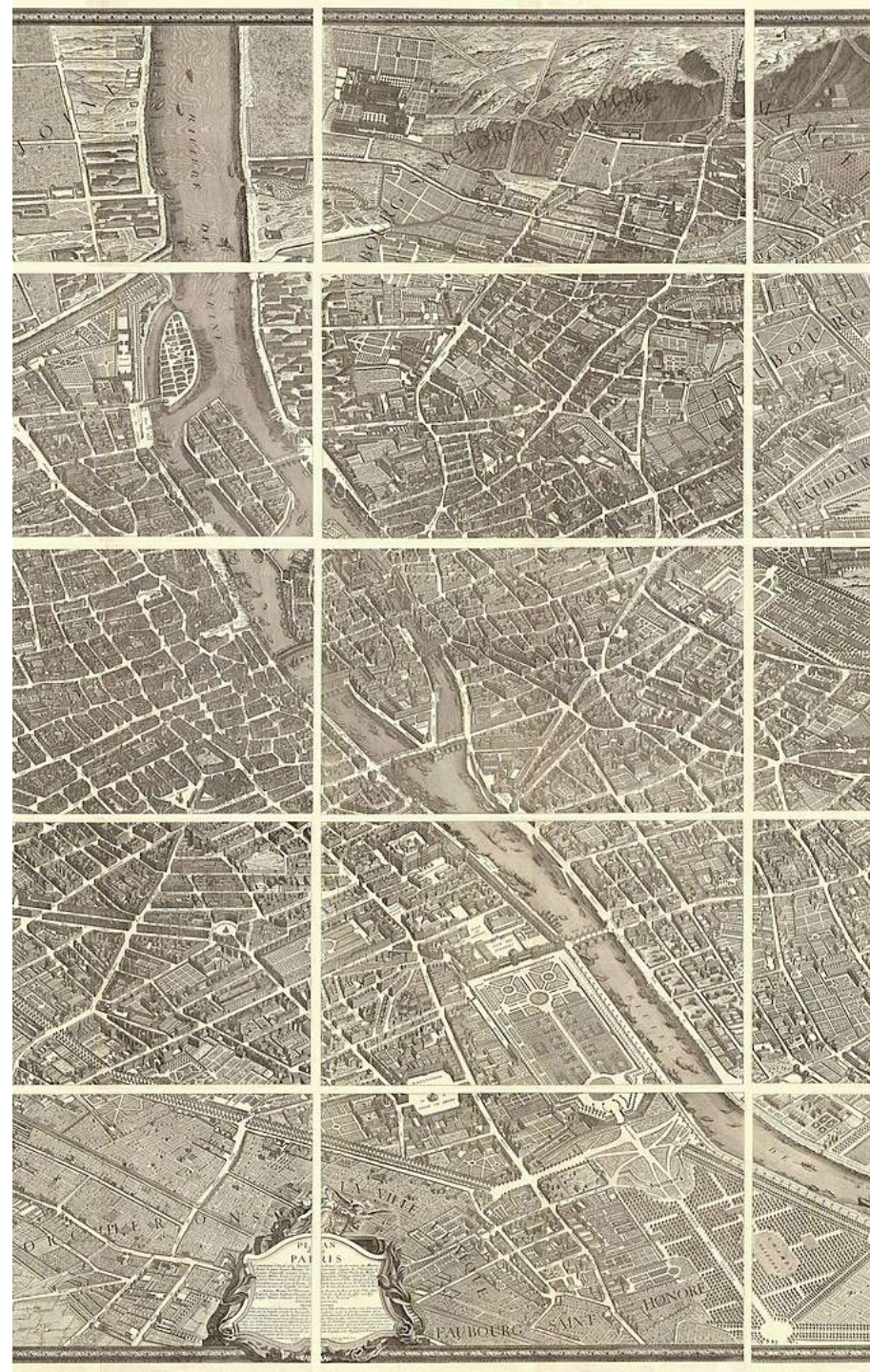
If you answer all four, only the first three will be marked

- ∴ Each question will have multiple parts
- ∴ 3 to 6 sentences should be enough to answer each *part*

Example (3-part question)

1. In a few sentences, define the sociological concept of intersectionality. (3 points)
2. Kristen Gilchrist ("'Newsworthy' Victims?", 2010) studied the treatment of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in the media. Briefly describe Gilchrist's methods and major findings. (3 points)
3. Briefly discuss the role of intersectionality in Gilchrist's analysis. (4 points)

Course roadmap



Last few weeks

⋮ Foundations

Methods overview

Classical (European) social theory

⋮ The individual in society (*bottom-up*)

Ethnicity, race, and nationality

Disability

Gender and sexuality

Class and culture

⋮ Populations and publics (*top-down*)

Inequality and stratification

Demography

Politics and economy

Social movements

⋮ Social systems (*middle-out*)

Interaction

Institutional change

Organizations and groups

Media and technology

⋮ Foundations

Methods overview

Classical (European) social theory

⋮ The individual in society (*bottom-up*)

Ethnicity, race, and nationality

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Next few weeks

⋮ Populations and publics (*top-down*)

Inequality and stratification

Demography

Politics and economy

Social movements

⋮ Social systems (*middle-out*)

Interaction

Institutional change

Organizations and groups

Media and technology

Inequality & mobility





Unequal distribution of resources

- ∴ Some people have *more than others*
- ∴ *Predictable patterns* of inequality

Types of resources

- ∴ 💰 Money 💰
- ∴ *But also:* power, opportunity, geographic mobility, social capital, legal protections, ...

Ubiquitous

- ∴ Empirically, high levels of inequality are present in virtually every human society

Measures

- ∴ *Absolute measures:* poverty defined against universal 'baseline'
- ∴ *Relative measure:* poverty defined relative to what is 'normal' in a society



Gini index (or Gini coefficient)

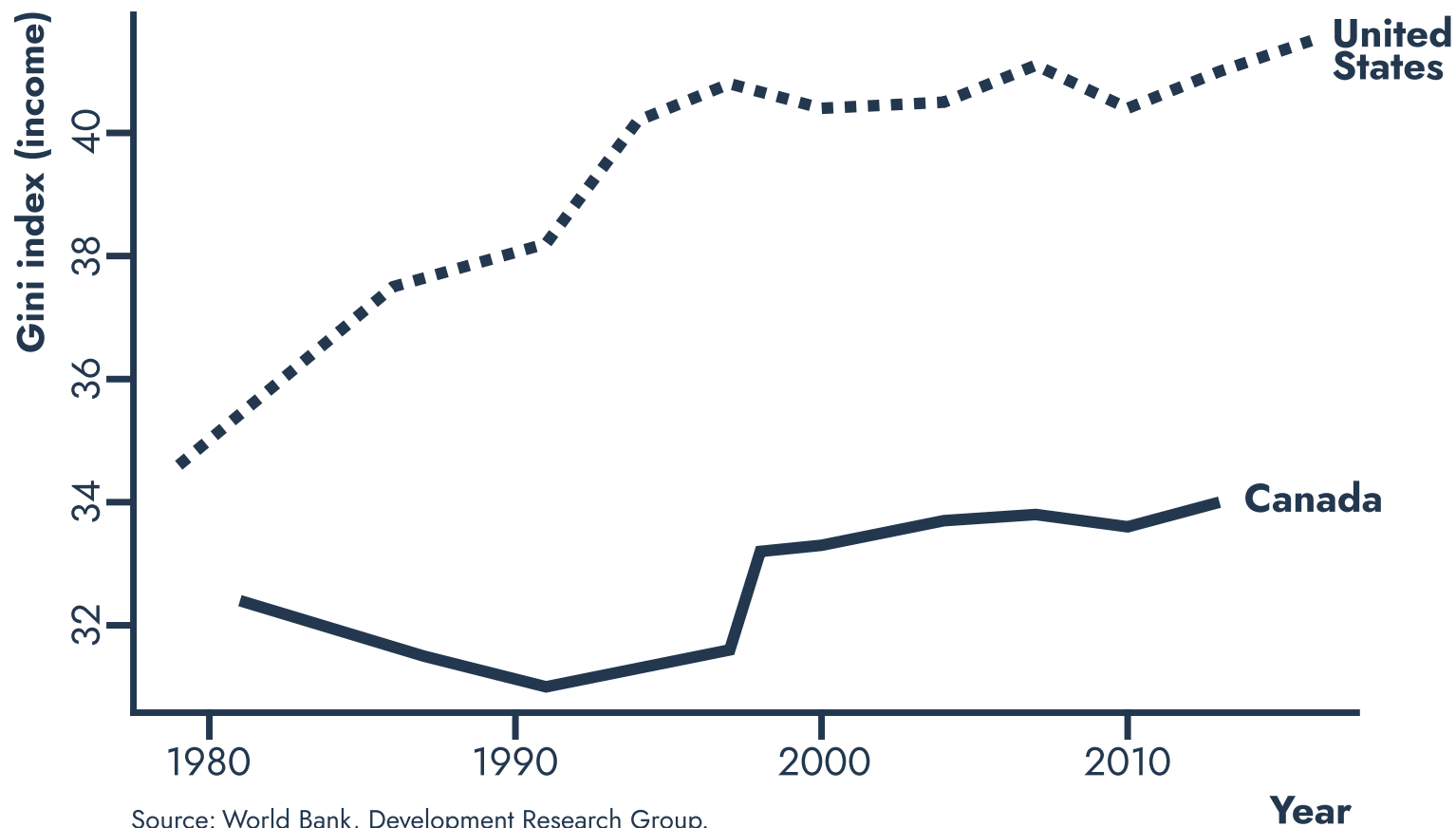
- Common measure of inequality

- Ranges from 0–100 (or 0.0–1.0)

From absolute equality to absolute inequality

- Relative, not absolute***

Could have a population with low inequality but widespread poverty, or a population with high inequality and no poverty



Source: World Bank, Development Research Group.
(<http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm>).



Patterns of inequality

- ∴ Wealth is not a random lottery
- ∴ Predictable structure to who has more and who has less

Inheritance of opportunity

- ∴ Empirically, income and wealth are largely predicted by family
- ∴ Wealthy people are much more likely to come from wealthy families than poor families, and vice versa

Mobility refers to these patterns

- ∴ 'Stickiness' of who is where in the unequal income distribution
- ∴ How hard is it to move up or down in a society's income distribution?



Stratification

- ⋮ Term to describe patterns of inequality
- ⋮ Geological metaphor
 - Differences *appear* categorical
 - Vertical dimension

Stratification and Mobility

- ⋮ People are born into particular strata
- ⋮ How easy is it to get to a different stratum?
- ⋮ Direction matters
 - Upward mobility versus downward mobility



Structural barriers

(external)

⋮ Material

Family wealth, area of residence, ...

⋮ Institutional

Access to schools and clubs, social relationships, ...

Socialized barriers

(internalized)

⋮ Socialized traits

Habits, language, skills, aesthetic, ...

⋮ Internalized expectations

Access to schools and clubs, social relationships, ...





Barriers to socioeconomic mobility

- ⋮ Think of two or three ways that class mobility is hindered in Montreal/Quebec/Canada
(consider different types of barriers and how they affect different types of people)
- ⋮ Pair up with one of your classmates and discuss your examples
- ⋮ We will discuss some of the examples as a class

Social divisions & class



Previously:

- ‡ Discussed social class from a micro-sociological perspective
- ‡ Interactionist lens on class boundaries
- ‡ Michelle Lamont

Today:

- ‡ Broader perspective
- ‡ Social class from a *macro-sociological* perspective



What is social class? Some theoretical perspectives:

Karl Marx

- ∴ A person's class is based on their relation to the means of economic production
- ∴ *Bourgeoisie, petite bourgeoisie, proletariat, lumpenproletariat*

Max Weber

- ∴ A person's class is based on the interplay of three components
- ∴ *Wealth, prestige, & power*

Pierre Bourdieu

- ∴ There are three *interchangeable* forms of class
- ∴ *Economic*: money, income, wealth
- ∴ *Social*: relationships, social circles
- ∴ *Cultural*: knowledge of art, cuisine, taste

Multidimensionality of class

- ∴ Contemporary sociologists tend to engage with all of these frames
- ∴ Focus on class as multi-faceted

Class is defined by a bundle of differentiated resources, behaviors, and cultural attributes

Institutionalization of class

- ‡ Class can become formally institutionalized and codified
E.g. Feudal Japan and Europe, India under British colonial rule
- ‡ Modern ethos: class boundaries *should* be permeable
- ‡ Class is still *institutionalized* through norms, barriers to mobility, etc.

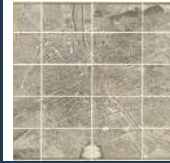
Hierarchy alignment

- ‡ *Social hierarchies tend to "line up"*
- ‡ Whenever a social division has a power dimension, it will likely align with class
Canadian MPs over 85% white and over 70% men
Over 90% of Fortune-500 CEOs are white men
- ‡ Barriers to mobility become tied to categories
Relation to ethnicity, gender, race, etc. complicates strictly economic interpretation of class



Canadian House of Commons
December, 2018

Image credit



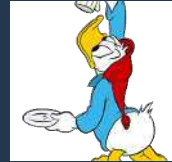
Plan of Paris, c. 1900,
by Louis Bretez



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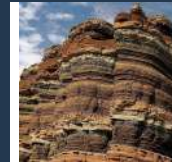


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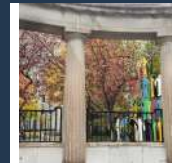


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