What is Social Class?

Social Class

A large group of people who rank closely to one another in wealth, power, and prestige.

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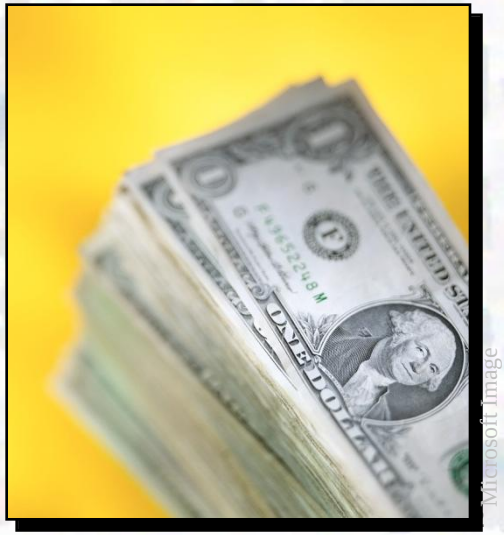
Components of Social Class

- Wealth - Value of a Person's Assets
  - Property and Income
  - Distinguishing Between Wealth & Income
  - Distribution of Income
- Power
  - Democratic Façade
  - Power Elite



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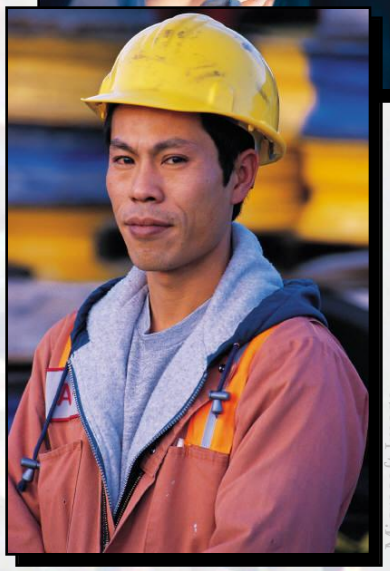
Components of Social Class

- Occupations and Prestige
  - They Pay More
  - They Require More Education
  - They Entail More Abstract Thought
  - They Offer Greater Autonomy



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Components of Social Class

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- Displaying Prestige
- Status Inconsistency

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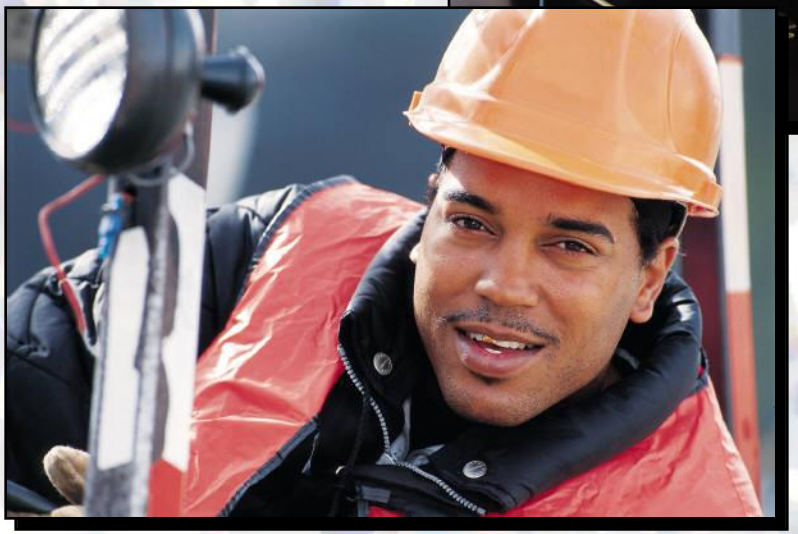
Sociological Models of Social Class

- Updating Marx
  - Capitalists
  - Petty Bourgeoisie
  - Managers
  - Workers



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Consequences of Social Class

- Family Life
  - Choice of Husband or Wife
  - Divorce
- Education
- Religion

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Consequences of Social Class

- Politics
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Inequality in Health Care

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Social Mobility

- Three Types of Social Mobility
  - Upward
  - Downward
  - Exchange

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Poverty

- Who are Poor?
  - Geography
  - Race-Ethnicity
  - Education

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Poverty

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- Who are Poor?
  - Feminization of Poverty
  - Old Age
  - Children of Poverty

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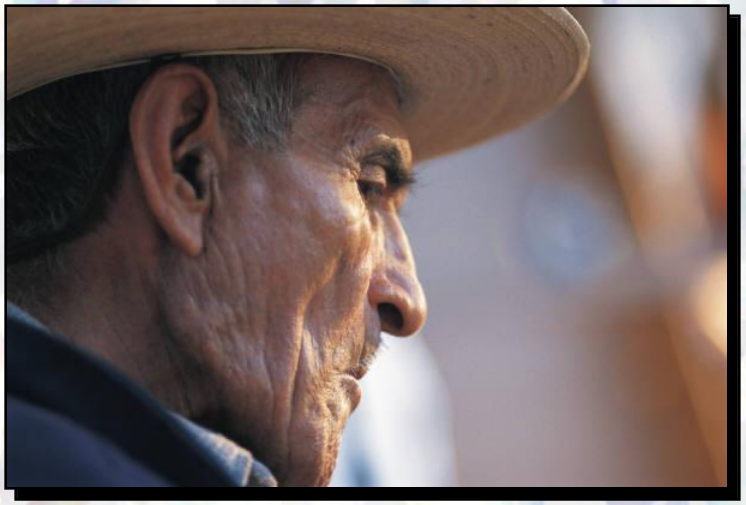
Dynamics of Poverty

- Culture of Poverty
- Most Poverty is Short-lived
- Number of Poor Relatively Stable



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Why are People Poor?

- Social Structure
- Features of Society
- Characteristics of Individuals

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Poverty

- Where is Horatio Alger?
- Social Functions of a Myth

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In class writing assignment

- What social class best describes your personal position in society?
- What are the positive and negative affects of being in this social class?
- Do you want to move into a different social class? If not, why not? If so, how do you plan to do so?