Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 7**

7.1 Explain how the way in which people are ranked within stratification system depends on events in the society’s history, its geographic location, its level of development in the world, and its political philosophy.

**Video Link:** [An Introduction to Social Stratification](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEPqCe5oPRw)

*This video provides an introduction to social stratification by deconstructing a definition of it which is then supported using real-world examples.*

1. What is the definition of social stratification?
2. What are the two key assertions in the definition of social stratification?

**Audio Link:** [A Front](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/540/a-front)

*This audio exposes that not everything is as it seems.*

1. Why are there border patrol checkpoints stationed far away from the border?
2. What is the ATF finding throughout the country?

**Web Resource:** [Social Stratification](http://study.com/academy/lesson/social-stratification-definition-theories-examples.html)

*This source details the concept of social stratification.*

1. Explain social stratification from a functionalist perspective.
2. Provide two major principles of social stratification.

7.2 Compare key ideas in the symbolic interactionist, rational choice, structural functional, and conflict perspectives on stratification.

**Video Link:** [Functionalism vs Conflict Theory - Stratification](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8T2wjMAMvc)

*This video explains the difference of viewing stratification from functionalism and conflict theory.*

1. What is the conclusion of functionalism relative to inequality?
2. What do conflict theorist say about the value of different jobs?

**Audio Link:** [A Not-So-Simple Majority](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/534/a-not-so-simple-majority)

*This audio highlights the social stratification within society that causes conflict.*

1. Do local property taxes add to social stratification?
2. Does religion add to social stratification?

**Web Resource:** [Theories of Stratification](http://www.sparknotes.com/sociology/social-stratification-and-inequality/section4.rhtml)

*This source details Marx’s and Weber’s theories of stratification.*

1. Explain Marx’s theory of exploitation.
2. How did Weber see power as effecting society?

7.3 Describe how achieved and ascribed characteristics impact individuals’ life chances in the United States.

**Video Link:** [Cultural Dimension: achieved status versus ascribed status](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkmS-jTGN1A)

*This video explains how some cultures confer status based upon what you personally achieve, whether at work, sports, financially, or socially where other cultures "ascribe" status based upon your social class, title, family background, age, gender and other factors.*

1. Explain achieved status.
2. Explain ascribed status.

**Audio Link:** [It’s Not the Product, It’s the Person](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/533/its-not-the-product-its-the-person)

*This audio focuses on the fact that owning a business is not easy and takes a lot of self-confidence to be successful.*

1. What is the key business principle to owning any successful business?
2. Why is it necessary to have a lot of self-confidence to start a business?

**Web Resource:** [Ascribed Status vs. Achieved Status: The Case of Homelessness](http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2010/05/ascribed-status-vs-achieved-status-the-case-of-homelessness.html)

*This source puts homelessness in the light of ascribed vs. achieved status.*

1. Explain why an ascribed status is involuntary.
2. Do you think homelessness is ascribed or achieved and why?

7.4 Explain how family background, socialization, marriage, and education can impact social mobility.

**Video Link:** [(Un)Living the American Dream: Factors Affecting Social Mobility](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CYUsKuPJ-U)

*This video explains the fallacy of the American Dream for so many people.*

1. What type of characteristics describe the middle class?
2. What is the difference between income and wealth?

**Audio Link:** [House Rules](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/512/house-rules)

*This audio highlights the importance of status within a community, and the difficulty in achieving it.*

1. Provide an example from the audio of how the Fair Housing Act of 1968 was defied.
2. Do you think it is fair to force people who cannot obtain housing due to discrimination to also have to send their children to schools that are of lesser quality?

**Web Resource:** [Explaining the Relationship between Family Structure and Children’s Educational Outcomes](http://www.ccpr.ucla.edu/publications/conference-proceedings/CP-05-057.pdf)

*This article helps to explain the importance of family structure in children’s education.*

1. What are two indirect pathways that effect the family structure on children’s educational attainment?
2. Why is it important for stratification researchers to understand the complexity of social class effect in non-intact family forms?

7.5 Compare the pluralist and power elite perspectives on stratification in the United States today.

**Video Link:** [How the Elite Stay in Power](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGKogwbO240)

*This video breaks down the way "those in power" stay in power by focusing on the issue of protests.*

1. Explain two ways that those in power maintain the status quo.
2. How does the media affect the way people view the world?

**Audio Link:** [Trends with Benefits](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/490/trends-with-benefits)

This audio explores disability benefit payments in the United States.

1. Do you think there is a connection between education and health?
2. What is causing kids to be the fastest growing population on disability?

**Web Resource:** [Social Power Theories](http://study.com/academy/lesson/social-power-theories-pluralist-power-elite-marxist-models.html)

*This source explains the difference between the three major theories of power in society: The pluralist model, the power-elite model and the Marxist model.*

1. How does Weber describe power?
2. What are the three types of groups in the Pluralist Model?

7.6 Illustrate how sociology can help us both understand and address inequality in society.

**Video Link:** [Sociology of Social Inequality](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l9UlnXtEpI)

*This video helps to explain that when we are born, our family identity can help or hinder our chances of movement through social classes. In each society, our differences determine access to resources, future goals, aspirations and overall life chances.*

1. Provide three elements of ascribed status.
2. Explain status and power.

**Audio Link:** [Harper High School, Part One](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/487/harper-high-school-part-one)

*This audio highlights the world of high school and recurring violence in the City of Chicago.*

1. Is having to deal with the constant threat of shootings an ascribed or achieved status?
2. Do the students in high school in Chicago have the opportunity to experience high school in a violent free setting?

**Web Resource:** [Sociology of Social Inequality](http://sociology.about.com/od/Disciplines/a/Sociology-Of-Social-Inequality.htm)

*This source focuses on the social inequality that exists throughout society.*

1. Explain social inequality.
2. What are the two main theories of social inequality?