Office: 217D Tarbutton Hall, 727-7531, email: rrubin@emory.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00 or by appointment

The course will use Blackboard for announcements, course materials, online readings and grades.

The following books are required for the course:


The required readings not in these books are on the online reserve system of Woodruff Library where they can be read online or downloaded so that you can have a hard copy. Articles on the syllabus indicated with ‘ABF’ are from Arum, Beattie, and Ford, *The Structure of Schooling*.

**Course Requirements:**

The course grade will be based on: (1) a mid-term examination, (2) a final examination, and (3) several short take-home essays and/or presentations. Each exam will count for 35% of the grade and the essays/presentations will constitute 30% of the grade.

I will distribute a set of study questions for each section of the course. These questions will be the basis for class discussions and the exams. It is very important that you complete the assigned readings before class. Also, please feel free to come see me with any questions, problems, or issues in the course.
August 26-September 2:

I. Education in the United States: A Nation at Risk?

August 30-September 4

1. Introduction: Waiting for Superman

   Documentary Film: Waiting for Superman
   National Commission on Excellence in Education, *A Nation at Risk* (online)

September 6-September 11

2. The Crisis in Education: Achievement, Inequality, and Culture

   John Chubb and Terry Moe, *An Institutional Perspective on Schools*, Ch. 44 in ABF.
   Linda Renzulli and V. Roscigno, *Charter Schools and the Public Good*, Ch. 48 in ABF.
   Amy Binder, *Contentious Curricula: Afrocentrism and Creationism in American Public Schools*, Ch. 49 in ABF.

II. Ways of Seeing: Theories of Schooling and Education

September 13:

1. Human Capital Theory

   Gary Becker, *Human Capital*, Ch. 5 in ABF.

September 18:

2. Status Conflict Theory

   Randall Collins, *Functional and Conflict Theories of Education*, Ch. 10 in ABF.
   Peter Cookson and Caroline Persell, *The Chosen Ones*, Ch. 12 in ABF.
   James Rosenbaum and Amy Binder, *Do Employers Really Need More Educated Youth?* Ch. 41 in ABF.
   Alejandro Portes, *English-Only Triumphs, But the Costs are High*, Ch. 47 in ABF.

September 20:
3. **Class Theory**

Samuel Bowles and Herb Gintis, *Beyond the Educational Frontier: The Great American Dream Freeze*, Ch. 11 in ABF.
Michele Lamont and Annette Lareau, *Cultural Capital: Allusions, Gaps, and Glissandos in Recent Theoretical Developments*, Ch. 6 in ABF.
Mitchell Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites*, Ch. 46 in ABF.

**III. Equality and Achievement: The Dilemma of Education in the United States**

**September 25-October 2:**

1. **Equality or Achievement?**

   Cornelius Riordan, *Equality and Achievement*: Chapter 1, *Equality and Achievement*.

2. **Methodological Issues in Studying Education**


**IV. The Primary Importance of Social Background**

**October 4-October 13:**

1. **Class, Race, Gender, and Family Structure**

   James Coleman and Thomas Hoffer, *Schools, Families, and Communities*, Ch. 7 in ABF.

**October 16: Fall Break**

**October 18: Mid-Term Examination**

**October 20-October 25:**
2. Explaining the Effects of Social Background: The Structure of Schooling

S. Heyneman and W. Loxley, *The Effect of Primary School Quality on Academic Achievement Across Twenty-Nine High- and Low-Income Countries* (online).
John Ogbu, *Social Stratification and the Socialization of Competence* (online).

October 27:

3. Explaining the Effects of Social Background: Home Advantage


V. The Effects of Schools

November 1-November 3:

1. School Quality, Racial and Gender Composition, and Public vs. Private Education

Cornelius Riordan, Equality and Achievement: Chapter 4, *Differences Between Schools: The Early Studies*.
Christopher Jencks and Marsha Brown, *The Effects of High Schools on Their Students*, Ch. 15 in ABF.

November 8-November 10:

2. School Finance, Summer Learning, School Size, and School Reform

Cornelius Riordan, Equality and Achievement: Chapter 5, *Differences Between Schools: The Current Studies*.
Jonathan Kozol, *On Savage Inequalities* (online).
Gary Orfield and Chungmei Lee, *Brown at 50*, Ch. 16 in ABF.
Doris Entwisle et al., *The Nature of Schooling*, Ch. 17 in ABF.

November 15-November 17:

3. School Organization: Tracking, Classroom Structure, and Teachers
Cornelius Riordan, Equality and Achievement: Chapter 6, *Differences Within Schools*.  
Maureen Hallinan, *Tracking: From Theory to Practice*, Ch. 18 in ABF.  
Adam Gamoran, *Is Ability Grouping Equitable?*, Ch. 19 in ABF.  
Jeannie Oakes, *The Distribution of Knowledge*, Ch. 20 in ABF

**November 22: Thanksgiving**

**November 27-29:**

**VI. Educational Reforms and Possibilities (I)**

Mitchell Stevens, *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites* (entire book)

**December 4-December 11:**

**VI. Educational Reforms and Possibilities (II)**

Cornelius Riordan, Equality and Achievement: Chapter 8, *Maximizing Achievement and Equality*.  

**December 19:**

Final Examination, 4:30 – 7:00