
Outline and Syllabus

Required Texts:
Binder of Readings. * (available for individual copying)

Objectives:
We will examine poverty from a social psychological perspective focusing on life conditions, and exploring correlates/consequences for attitudes, beliefs, and behavior. The cultural context and social factors will be analyzed and attention will be paid to implications for personal functioning, social change, and social policy.

Date Topics and Readings______________________________________

Jan. 18 I. Introduction
A. Objectives
B. Definitions
C. “What’s psychology got to do with it?”
   (attached)

Jan. 25 II. Who are the poor in our community?
   Guest: RI Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty, George Wiley Center, Pawtucket
   Children & Poverty: Huston et al, pp. 275-282
   Duncan et al, pp. 296-318
   Garrett et al, pp. 331-345

Feb. 1 III. Middle-class responses to the poor.
   Children & Poverty: MacPhee et al, pp. 699-715


Sullivan: Ch. 1 Feb. 8, 15

IV. Urban poverty

A. Welfare, parenting, and other frustrations

Sullivan: Ch. 2

Children & Poverty: Bradley et al, pp. 346-360
Chase-Lansdale et al, pp. 373-393
Hashima & Amato, pp. 394-403
McLoyd et al, pp. 562-589
Leadbetter & Bishop, pp. 638-648
Seitz & Apfel, pp. 667-683


Mar. 1

B. Health

Children & Poverty: Seitz & Apfel, pp. 666-698


Mar. 8

C. Education

Sullivan: Chs. 3, 4

Children & Poverty: Posner & Vandell, pp. 440-456

Caughey et al, pp. 457-471
Phillips et al, pp. 472-492
Connell et al, pp. 493-506
Seidman et al, pp. 507-22
Walker et al, pp. 606-621
Garner et al, pp. 622-637
Mar. 22  D. Crime and hustling

Sullivan: Chs. 5-11
Children & Poverty: Sampson & Laub, pp. 523-540

Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12  E. Homelessness


*Liebow: Preface, Introduction, Chs.1-7, Appendices A, C-E

Apr. 19 MID-TERM DUE

V. Living in rural poverty

A. Migrant workers, small farmers, southern mountain dwellers

Children & Poverty: Conger et al, pp. 541-61

Brody et al, pp. 590-605


Apr. 26  

B. Native Americans


May 3  

VI. Solutions: Is there a role for psychology?


This syllabus has been contributed to APA for the Resources for the Inclusion of Social Class in Psychology Curricula. It may have been edited for length. For additional resources, visit apa.org/pi/ses/resources/publications/social-class-curricula.aspx


