

Student Questions for the Final Takehome Examination

Ben Eberle -

Documentaries are a very interesting, fun, and useful way to learn about real life cultural issues. Pick two or more of the documentaries we watched in class (Harvest of Shame, Country Boys, Born Rich, etc.) and compare and contrast them. Were these documentaries useful in helping you better understand social class issues? What did you learn from them that you might not have learned from the textbooks? Was seeing real people speak about their lives more insightful? Refer to the Shipler text and Class Matters, as well as students' blogs to support your answer.

Laura Washington -

Throughout the course we have learned that a person's social class can have a large impact on their friends, family, self-image, and world view, but how do we define class? Has your definition of class changed as we progressed through the course? And is it possible for people to change their class if they really want to?

Use books, movies, blogs, and any other sources from in or out of class to support your ideas.

Nicole Spanswick- Final Question

Part 1: After our semester of enlightenment on social class in American society, reflect on how social class affects lower, middle, and upper class individuals in both negative and positive ways you were not previously aware of. Relate each reflection to specific examples of a something that you have learned during the semester.

Part 2: All social classes experience suffering in some way, what social class do you feel dealt more with psychological suffering? What social class dealt more with physiological suffering? Or was it a combination of both? Use specific examples from information we have been provided over the semester, and explain why you feel that way (feel free to include personal experiences).

George Hoermann

When we watched Affluenza in class it brought up the idea of consumerism as a bad thing in America. Considering that we live in a capitalist society and our entire economic system relies on consumption, is affluenza really such a bad thing? Should we blame the economic system or the population's general lack of self control?

(Swanson edit). *Support your views with some appropriate ideas from blogs, web assignments, and our texts.*

Cynthia Kovacs-

After learning about the class structure in American society throughout the semester, how have your views on class differences changed? Do you believe that many of the previous beliefs you held were simply stereotypes that were constructed by members of our society? After being exposed to the reality of life in each social class, what do you now believe are characteristics and behaviors assigned to each class?

(Swanson edit). *Support your views with some appropriate ideas from blogs, web assignments, and our texts.*

Christina Acompora -

Before reading Shipler's book "The Working Poor", Class Matters, and other class material what was your opinion, views and stereotypes toward the working poor and the upper class? Now that we have learned about the working poor and the upper class in detail, have your thoughts changed or stayed the same? Additionally, why do you feel people have certain stereotypes and opinions toward these classes?

David Bailey -

How has the course changed your perspective on class in America? If you come from upper class family, do you see lower class people differently and vice-versa? Are you now able to better empathize with people who are above and below your social class?

(Swanson edit). *Support your views with some appropriate ideas from blogs, web assignments, and our texts.*

Charlyn Friedman-

"Nobody who works hard should be poor in America," writes David Shipler. Do you agree with this statement or assuming society needs low-paying jobs to function, should society provide a minimum standard of living for persons providing those functions. And if so, how might it do so? Use examples from all of the materials we've read.

Jennifer Perry-

Having learned about the working poor from shipler and watchin born rich and afluenza, how do these two extremes make you feel about your life? Will you change the way you spend or control your money?

(Swanson edit). *Support your views with some appropriate ideas from blogs, web assignments, and our texts.*

Haley Hanlon -

This question would have two aspects to it. First, choose a person or a story from either source that you feel most closely relates to your life. Discuss the similarities and why you thought this person/story best represented your "class" status. If you feel like you don't really relate to anybody choose somebody who you really felt emotionally compelled towards when reading about them (and explain why). Then secondly, take on the role of this person and pretend you were living their life, look forward into the next 10 or 15 years of this persons life and explain what you would do to help them reach their goals/ improve their lives.

Muath

We watched *People Like Us* documentary and the *Born Rich*. What did you learn from the other social class, upper or lower? If you had to choose your social class, what would you choose? Why? Illustrate your thoughts with examples from the readings then comment.

Kelsey Shuka-

Throughout the semester we have read about many individuals who have had numerous struggles throughout their lives. Race is one subject that can have many effects on a persons life. Using materials from the class, explain how one's race has played a role in their life (either positively or negatively) through their jobs, education, relationships, or everyday life in general.

Melissa Olinger -

Based on the guest speaker and other sources we have used throughout the semester, how is housing effected by class and culture? Discuss stereotypes about government housing as well as differences we have looked at between upper, middle, and lower class neighborhoods.

(Swanson Edit). *There are links to the organization directed by the guest speaker on the class website.*

Stephanie Greeley -

Based on what we have learned this semester, use material from class and materials from other classes/ outside sources to explain how being born into a low soceoeconmic status can affect the level of success one can achieve.

Jessica Marshall -

Many of the characters we have read encountered have had struggles that have greatly impacted them mentally and psychologically. Do you think that the poor have a greater likelihood of being mentally ill? What are the implications of that? Do they suffer more, in this sense, than their counterparts who are more wealthy or well off? Who are some characters that we've read about that have left an impact on you because of their psychological state? Why did it effect you so much? Use some examples from the book and/or others you find online as well as personal experiences.

Laura McConnell -

How do cross-culture marriages encounter issues/conflicts involving class in their everyday lives? Through wealth, education, child-rearing, gift giving, manners, etc.... Give examples from Class Matters and any of your own personal experiences relating to this topic. How could a cross-culture couple overcome or solve some of these issues? Who's life tends to change the most in a cross-culture marriage and why? Also, is who has power in the relationship balanced between the two spouses? If so how, if not, why?

Molly Wetmore -

In our society, some individuals are born "rich" and never have to worry about money. In the documentary that we watched it was evident that Ivanka Trump never had to worry about money. Define the word "fair" and from your definition, do you think it is fair that she has advantages that many do not have? For example, she started her own jewelry collection. Do you think she had an unfair advantage? Use class material to support your opinion.

Nathan Charette -

Refer back to the quiz with the four workers where we assigned them a social class based on appearance. (Under Week of Sept 3). How many did you get wrong? What stereotypes about these individuals led you to answer in that way? Now that we have completed this course and learned about social class, stereotypes and jobs - how would you rank them and why? Refer to any of the course books, blogs, internet sources and movies to support your answer.

Nicole Bauer -

I think for my question for the final exam i would like to do do it on "classes" again but this time i think that we should put ourselves into the mix. I would like to have the question of put yourself in the shoes of a lower class family, what do you do for a job, what do you eat every week, and tell me about your life, how you live. And then I would say put yourself in the shoes of a upper class family and tell me about your experiences with that, and after comparing and contrasting them I think it would be interesting to ask how do you think our world would function if we didn't have classes like upper lower and middle, and everyone was the same? Would it be a functioning world? It would it fall to pieces? Do we need to have classes in order for our society to function the way it does?

(Swanson edit). *Support your views with some appropriate ideas from blogs, web assignments, and our texts.*

James DeMoura -

Throughout the semester we have examined individuals and groups with a wide range of various socioeconomic statuses. How has their socioeconomic status affected their views on life and money, including their dreams and aspirations when younger? Is there a large contrast between rich and poor in terms of dreams? (Swanson edit). *If so, describe the difference using examples from class materials, blogs and internet assignments.*

Meredith Brown-

In the introduction of The Working Poor, Shipler introduces the idea of the American myth and its opposite, the anti-myth. Define each of these ideas in your own words and explain how each of these ideas were demonstrated throughout class reading materials. Feel free to make use of The Working Poor, Class Matters, internet research, blogs and any other assigned readings in your response. Be sure to use specific examples.

Linda Tran-

Use material from class and outside of the class to explain how gender, race, and education increase the complexity of people's socioeconomic status in America.

Kelsey McGee-

The United States culture tends to prize itself on possessions and financial success. This phenomenon is widely known as affluenza. Explain how you can see affluenza has affected you and the people around you. Do you think this is an issue? How do you think you can avoid this condition? Use the films, blogs, books, and any outside sources to help back up your opinion.

KatiaBlue Stevenson-

As the class discussed the class structure and economy of the country, what conclusions can you make about the worth of a college education? is it worth the debt for the typical middle class student? is worth the time for the average millionaire to go to college? does the lower class actually have the same chance to go to college as the other social classes?

(Swanson edit). *Support your views with some appropriate ideas from blogs, web assignments, and our texts.*

Emma Dauphinais -

David Shipler's book "The Working Poor," provides an eye-opening look at the poorest people in America, and the everyday struggles that they face. It also dispels stereotypes about poor people. What chapters stick out the most to you in this book, and why? Find two sources that correlate with this chapter that we have used outside of class. What are the similarities, and differences, and what do you find interesting about all of this?

Christina Acompora -

Before reading Shipler's book "The Working Poor", Class Matters, and other class material what was your opinion, views and stereotypes toward the working poor and the upper class? Now that we have learned about the working poor and the upper class in detail, have your thoughts changed or stayed the same? Additionally, why do you feel people have certain stereotypes and opinions toward these classes?

Brad Jeffery-

In Shipler's, The Working Poor, the workplace is described as daunting for those that are around or fall below the national poverty line. Please explain why this may be the case and provide specific setbacks that may inhibit these individuals from succeeding initially. In your opinion, can these setbacks be overcome? Please provide specific examples from any class materials that are relevant.

Daisy Wang-

Why has Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) failed to help many families out of poverty? Why women more likely than men to be in the poverty? Do you think TANF can lower the number of working welfare recipients, especially for women? Use material in class and outside research to explain.