SOC 201  CH 6: Poverty and Economic Inequality

I. THE GLOBAL CONTEXT: POVERTY AND ________________ INEQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD

A. The wealthiest 1% of adults in the world own ______% of global household wealth. The top 10% of adults own ______%! The poorest 50% only own ____% of the global household wealth.

B. Defining and Measuring Poverty: there are _______________ definitions used.

   The World Bank “Poverty ____________” is $1.25 for least developed countries and $2 for middle income countries.

   Absolute Poverty: lack of the _______ necessities that leads to hunger and physical deprivation, such as not having food, clean ____________, and housing.

   Relative Poverty: Not having as _________ as the people around you.

   Poverty includes many parts of life including: ______ insecurity, inadequate housing, poor health and healthcare, poor or no ________________, inadequate transportation

C. The Multidimensional Poverty Index combines three factors, deprivation of 1) health, 2) of _________________, and 3) decent living standards.

D. In the U.S. the Poverty Line started out as: 3 times the ____________ cost of an adequate diet. It is updated for _______________ and other factors annually. Living at 50% below the poverty line is referred to as “__________.” Those families just above the poverty line are called the “_________ Poor.” The poverty line is inadequate and does not reflect ___________. It is the same for all of the U.S. except Hawaii and ________________, does not count transportation, and does not include other assistance ____________.

E. Globally, life expectancy is increasing in most countries. _______________ is also generally more attainable than in earlier decades. Still, 1 in ____ live in extreme poverty and _______________ on less than $1.25 a day.

II. SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND POVERTY

A. Structural-Functionalist Perspective: People are paid what ________________ thinks is appropriate—so _________ (more training) are paid more than landscapers. Poverty results from institutional breakdown which creates a “Culture of _______________” where the poor develop norms, values, _____________, and self-concepts that tend to keep them in poverty. Poverty is functional in some ways—poor people fill less-wanted ______ and buy cheaper ___________ like used cars.
B. Conflict Perspective: the bourgeoisie (_____________) exploit the proletariat (workers). Wealthfare and corporate ______________ are the laws, policies, and ______ breaks that benefit the wealthy. Some towns and states give benefits to ______________ so they will relocate or stay and provide jobs/tax money. Is this good or not?

C. Symbolic Interactionist Perspective or “what does it ________ to be poor?” People who are labeled “_______” are stigmatized and marginalized in society as lazy, irresponsible, lacking motivation and __________ values. Definitions of wealth _____________ from society to society and across time.

III. WEALTH, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Economic Inequality in the United States: In 2012 the wealthiest 10% of households owned more than _____% of the income! More than half of Americans between 20 and 75 will spend at least ______ year in poverty.

A. Patterns of Poverty in the United States
   The Feminization of Poverty: Women are more likely to be poor than men—especially _____________ women with children; other industrialized countries have more income ___________ for single mothers. Same-sex couples are more likely to be _________ and children of same sex parents are twice as likely to be poor as heterosexual parents. Age and poverty: ______________ are the age category that are more likely to be in poverty, why?

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF POVERTY AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

A. Health Problems and Poverty: Due to inadequate ______________ and inadequate health care, the poor can face a lifetime of disadvantage including lower __________ achievement, lower paying jobs, and shorter _______ expectancy.

B. Housing: ___________ mortgages were given to poor credit families but when the housing bubble burst in ______ lots of people lost their houses or were upside down in their mortgages. In natural disasters the poor are much more vulnerable—flimsy __________ built in dangerous locations, lack of transportation, risk their safety wanting to ______________ what little they have from looting.

C. Education and Poverty: you guessed it, the more ______________, the less poverty. Education is the best “insurance” against poverty there is. Interestingly, the parent’s __________ level is a stronger predictor of kids’ academic achievement rather than the parent’s ______________ achievement levels.

D. Family Stress: Poorer couples are ________ likely to divorce than couples with incomes greater than $50,000 — reasons?

E. Intergenerational Poverty: poverty that is passed from one generation to the ______________. Reasons for this include: well-paying jobs moving out of the city, fewer marriage-eligible males, more out-of-wedlock births, lack of resources for ____________ or starting a venture, absence of confidence, lack of __________ and familial __________ models also contribute. However, half of black poor children and ¾ of white poor children ____________ poverty in early adulthood.
V. STRATEGIES FOR ACTION: ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

A. Government Public Assistance and ___________ Programs in the United States: Many are "means-tested programs—programs that have eligibility based on ___________ levels. The Personal Responsibility and ________ Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, is known as TANF or ___________ assistance to needy families. Main points: must work or be in job training within 2 years and there is a lifetime TANF assistance cap of ___ years; some allowances for single parent moms. Legal immigrants have to be in the country for 5 years before they are ___________.

Food Assistance: The largest program is Food ___________. School meals are second, and ________ assistance is next. Even with these, some children in need do not receive food assistance.

Public housing: projects have been criticized for concentrating the poor into ___________. Section ____ housing tries to disperse the poor outside of poor areas, but ________ often applies. There is inadequate housing for the homeless—for every family that has assistance, there are ________ that are eligible but don't get it. Some homeless are called couch-homeless or couch-surfers. These are people who don't have their ________ housing, but instead stay at the home of family or friends.

Some States have had more success in tracking down ___________ Dads who do not pay child support by revoking ___________ licenses and professional licenses. Also income tax return confiscation and garnishing ________ is used to pay child support.

B. Welfare in the United States: Myths and Realities—"Welfare moms have many _________." Reality: on average they have the ________ as the rest of the U.S. (less than 2). Of poor families that are eligible for TANF, about ________ receive assistance. Survival Strategies among Low-Income & Welfare Single Mothers include a.) working in the formal, ___________ or underground economies, b.) cash assistance from family, boyfriends or others, and c.) help from ___________, charities, agencies, or community groups.

C. Educational Assistance: ________ Grants, Federal Work-Study program, and guaranteed student loans are the main educational assistance programs.

D. Earned Income Tax Credit: based on family ________ and income; it lifts more children out of poverty than any other program. Minimum Wage and "__________ ________" Laws. Taxes that increase as the family's income increases are called ___________ taxes.

E. International Responses to Poverty: Does just giving $ to the poor elevate them? One answer is to ___________ the human capital that a nation has. Human Capital is the ___________, knowledge, and capabilities of the individuals in the workforce.