SOC 201  CH 8: Problems in Education

I. THE GLOBAL CONTEXT: CROSS-CULTURAL VARIATIONS IN EDUCATION
Some societies have no __________ education for their people. The picture is getting better but we are far from achieving the goal of total literacy. Globally, one in ___ adults cannot read or write and 2/3rds of those who cannot are _______________. However, education rates are increasing in the world.

II. SOCIOLGOICAL THEORIES OF EDUCATION
A. Structural-Functionalist Perspective: Educational ___________ include educational instruction, socialization into the dominant culture, sorting into ____________, and custodial care. Crime, delinquency and poverty can be seen as a ___________ of educational system functions. For instance, if students are not taught the knowledge and __________ necessary for future jobs and __________ development they may become poor, criminal, or maladjusted. If children do not learn respect for ____________ (part of socialization, above) then they may not respect employers, police, or judges later on.

B. Symbolic Interactionist Perspective: This perspective focuses on classroom interaction between teacher and ___________. Students who are ____________ socio-economically get greater teacher approval—which can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Rosenthal and Jacobson did a classic ___________ illustrating this. They chose 5 “___________” who were identified to the teachers as bright or ____________ but they were actually average compared to other students. At the end of the year they made higher grades, scored ____________ on IQ tests and were seen as more likely to succeed than the other students. They were also seen as more curious, ____________, and more likely to succeed.

III. WHO SUCCEEDS? THE INEQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
A. Socioeconomic status is one of the best ___________ of educational success and attainment. Students from higher income families are ______ times more likely to graduate with a Bachelor's degree than ____________ family students. Disadvantaged parents are less likely to be involved with a child’s education; reasons? Less time, lower expectations, less __________ for books, tutors, home ____________, and less likely to ____________ to children when young. Of four-year college students, about 85% receive financial aid of some type.

B. Head Start started in ____________ to help preschool children from low-income families—over 900,000 children aged ____________ are enrolled. Seen as beneficial but perhaps not past the 3rd grade.

C. Race, Ethnicity and Schools: The differences between ethnic groups is largely ____________ to socioeconomic reasons, not “___________” differences. The graduation gap is generally ____________ between minority and majority groups. Some of this gap may be due to ____________ or English as a second language; the most common non-English language in the U.S. is ____________. Is bilingual education the answer? Those who are for bilingual ed. say that there is better progress and ____________ of minority students, those who are against
say that it _______ them back outside of the classroom, reduces their English skills, is ________________, and it leads to hostilities with other ____________

D. Gender: In the U.S., schools have discriminated against ________ in the past—before the 1830’s colleges would not even admit women! Title _____ was signed into law to correct unfair practices. Currently in the U.S., females earn ___________ Bachelors and Masters degrees than males do. In K-12 grades, males are more likely to have learning disabilities, have attention ___________—hyperactive disorder, and drop out or be expelled.

E. Segregation: Some schools today are segregated despite the ________ Brown vs Board of Education Supreme Court ruling that segregation is inherently _________. Since 1986 there has been a trend toward “________________” as shown by a Harvard Univ. study. Sorting by socioeconomic status is also evident. Is this a good thing? Is it legal? Does it help students achieve scholastically?

IV. PROBLEMS IN THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

A. Academic Progress? NAEP records show reading and Math scores improved for 13 to 17 yr olds from ’71 to 2012, but are stagnant for 17 yr olds. Still, U.S. students are consistently outperformed in math and science globally by some countries (i.e. Korea & Taiwan) The Gender Gap has narrowed over time but females still outperform in reading and males still outperform in math. School Dropout Rates: have significantly declined (12% in 1990 down to 7% in 2011). students from low-income families are more than ________ as likely to drop out as middle-class and ________ times more likely than high-income family students. _______________ schools frequently increases dropout likelihood and so does single parenthood. Dropouts are more likely to have poor health, be unemployed, and be involved in _______________. On the “good news” side of the story, more than _____% of those who drop out do complete their high school degree at some time in their lives.

B. School Violence: the chance of being killed at school is about 1 in a __________. Some of the things that increase the likelihood of violence at school: 1) schools in neighborhoods with ________ activity 2) students know a student who brought a gun to school or ______ someone with a gun at school 3) the more __________ and other drugs, the more likely violence is. One study of adults found that 45% reported having been bullied and 16 % did some bullying! Some studies have shown that increased bullying behavior comes after increased _______________. The age group most likely to have the most bullies is the_____ grade, the grades with the most victims is _____ grade.

C. School Facilities: In the U.S., some schools are so _____ that students and teachers are getting sick from __________ and other problems. Such problems affect learning and health! More affluent school districts are working with new technology and are building “____________” schools which work more in harmony with nature and use less __________ and other resources.

D. Teachers: It is becoming more _______________ to recruit quality teachers. VAM or Value Added Measurement is to use student achievement data to assess a teacher’s effectiveness. Good idea or not? What about teachers in low income areas? Would you go to a low income area knowing that you would likely not get a
raise? A “highly qualified” teacher is one who has a bachelor’s ________, among other criteria.

V. STRATEGIES FOR ACTION: TRENDS AND INNOVATION IN U.S. EDUCATION
What to do to improve education? The NCLB (No ________ Left Behind) Act of 2001 has resulted in improved scores, but whites have improved ________ than minorities—which has widened the achievement gap a bit. Most schools tend to neglect “__________ Education—or teaching the moral/social ____________ a person has in society. Should schools teach _________? One trend is to do away with “social promotions” which is to ________ the student even if they are ________.

A. Not all is bad, _____% of high school students said that they had a teacher who made a long-term __________ difference in their lives. Also 99% of schools have internet access now—is the internet the way of the future? Do we still need teachers?

B. Private, Charter & Home Schools: These create ______________ for students and are supposed to increase the quality of education through competition. The most common reason for enrollment in Private Schools is for ______________ instruction in addition to scholarly studies. The academic results for charter schools is a little bit better than conventional schools especially for ____________ students. Home schooling is another option; students who are homeschooled perform ______________ than institutionally schooled peers.

C. Distance learning: The learners are ______________ separate from the instructor. Distance learners tend to be ________ satisfied with the quality of instruction when compared to ______________ classroom students. Knowing this, what are on-line enrollments doing? They are ______________! Reasons?

D. Computers in the classroom! Some think it will be the ________ of future learning, but a large study showed that educational software learners’ achievement was - ______________ than traditional classroom students.

VI. UNDERSTANDING PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION
Educational __________ continues to be a hot button item in the U.S. but is the public willing to pay for it? Additional funding in __________ was turned down on a public vote! Are we sacrificing our future just to save some money now?

What is the result of standardized ________ in education? How does single-parenthood affect education or when _________ parents work? Is there a way to encourage and grow the pro-education attitude in our culture (as there is in ___________ and China)? These and other questions will continue to affect our nation in the decades to come!