

Discussion on the summaries assigned (by e-mail) for McCall and related issues:

If we have already submitted our summaries do we have the opportunity to redo them?

- Yes. You can certainly revise your summaries and resubmit them to Dr. Brush. Also, put the revised versions in your portfolio.

The summaries will be graded on a credit, no-credit basis. No letter grade will be given for the summaries.

Completing the summaries is important because it is part of your contribution to the collective effort of the class.

Would it be possible to get 48 hours notice on assignments?

- Yes.
- If Dr. Brush decides to make another change like this one by e-mail on Tuesday, it will not be due for Thursday.

Is Dr. Brush going to look over your summaries before she posts it on the website?

- No, Dr. Brush is not going to edit summaries.

There is bound to be differences between summaries; however, hopefully you will be able to obtain a complete picture of the important information McCall is trying to convey through all of the summaries.

Why did we do this assignment in groups (versus reading the whole book together)?

- Division of labor
- We can take advantage of the diversity of views and perspectives in the class.

This assignment is important because it is part of the process of reviewing research and what it means to do a literature review.

Can we get into our groups and make one summary for each chapter?

- Perhaps it might be easier to read 7 summaries rather than everyone's?
- Dr. Brush said that she would be happy to incorporate this kind of group work into class today, time permitting, and perhaps even go to the lab.
- One possibility is to meet as a group before Tuesday if we don't get in groups in class.

A classmate expressed concern that it was difficult to write a paper in groups. The opinions of quieter people usually aren't heard. Dr. Brush's response led to review the Learning Goals of the class.

- One of the learning goals of the class is to do group work.

- Dr. Brush encouraged practicing doing group work now because we will be good practice for the group work we will have to do eventually for this class.
- You can show how you had to overcome obstacles to group work in your portfolio.

The three final products of class are a presentation (as a group), final report (as a group) and portfolio (individually, in lieu of a final exam).

- The portfolio includes a cover letter that demonstrates the degree to which you have met the learning goals. The letter refers to evidence in your portfolio.

See the syllabus for detailed information about these assignments.

You can include class notes in your portfolio.

If you are the note taker for a class period, include those notes in your portfolio.

Portfolios will be graded on a totally individual basis. Even though the product is a result of group work it will not be graded in comparison to others.

In your portfolio one document can be used to refer to more than one of the learning goals.

Dr. Brush then read what the learning goals include. Please see the syllabus.

Attendance and participation are important in this class.

- You will not be penalized for missed classes if you were not yet enrolled in the class.

Discussion on Complex Inequality:

- Dr. Brush wanted to extract what lessons related to change, methodological issues and theoretical issues we can pull from this text and apply to social change in the U.S.
- In what ways might this book guide our inquiry in this class?

What does McCall teach us?

- 1. Don't accept general perceptions of how things have changed.**
 - o About what has changed and
 - o The direction of change
 - What if the direction has not increased but changed?
- 2. Inequality differs by economic structure.**
 - Perhaps there is no single model of factors in change/inequality.
- 3. The unit of analysis matters a lot.**
- 4. Configurations of inequality imply that there is not a single measure of inequality.**
 - Inequality is multi-dimensional
 - If we want to talk about inequality we have to keep in mind configurations of inequality. This might seem obvious but it is important to note this because

it is a goal of this class, to create something that is so backed up and persuasive that the conclusion reached seems obvious.

Points 2-4 all build on point 1.

A national picture of inequality can't be created because there is not a single dimension of inequality.

In Chapter 2 McCall argues why we have configurations of inequality. (Attention was directed to the information provided in the tables and graphs in Chapter Two of the text).

Next Tuesday:

In our next class we will address the question, what does she mean by configurations of inequality?

***Also, on Tuesday be prepared to give a presentation on the chapter assigned to your group.

If you haven't done your summaries of two chapters yet, do them for Tuesday.

Skim the book to get the big picture. Dr. Brush wants us to read the text to see what we can take away from it. Also, think about what it would mean to update here theory.

***Unfortunately, I had a difficult time figuring out what she wanted each of the chapters to be focusing on in their presentations. If you have any questions about what you need to address specifically in your chapter, would it be possible for you to e-mail Dr. Brush?

For the remainder of class we got into our groups to plot our presentation strategies. Everyone be prepared to present; however, someone who has not yet presented will most likely have to present. Your group is responsible for presenting one chapter.