

(Re)Learning Moment

Class and Classism

Class *noun*

relative social ranking based on categories such as income, wealth, education, status, and power ([Leondar-Wright & Yeskel, 2007, p. 314](#))

Classism *noun*

the belief that people can be distinguished or characterized, esp. as inferior, on the basis of their social class; discrimination or prejudice against people belonging to a particular social class ([Oxford English Dictionary](#))




the institutional, cultural, and individual set of practices and beliefs that assign differential value to people according to their socioeconomic status ([Leondar-Wright & Yeskel, 2007, p. 314](#))

Class Culture *noun*

describes the norms, values, and ways of life shared by people with a similar class position, as intersecting also with ethnic culture. Class cultures develop in response to economic realities as well as other dimensions of experience... ([Adams et al., 2018, p. 168](#))

Begin with the Self-Work

Journaling and debriefing within your network of support can help you grow and challenge implicit biases. To begin, try these potential prompts:

-  How do my classed identities (e.g., income, wealth, education) influence my engagement with others?
-  How do those people closest to me reinforce and/or challenge my worldview on class/classism?
-  How can I advance my knowledge and understanding of classism in society and academia?

(Re)Learn About Classism

Resources curated by Dorian L. McCoy, PhD

Physical & E-Books

- Class in America: An Encyclopedia – Robert E. Weir | [Physical Book](#)
- Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents – Isabel Wilkerson | [E-Book](#)
- Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City – Matthew Desmond | [E-Book](#)
- The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges are Failing Disadvantaged Students – Anthony A. Jack | [Physical Book](#)
- Women, Race and Class – Angela Davis | [E-Book](#)

Articles

- Classism in the University Setting: Examining Student Antecedents and Outcomes | [Article](#)
- Cultivating "Generational Blessings": Graduate School Aspirations and Intergenerational Uplift Among Women of Color – Dorian L. McCoy & Rachelle Winkle-Wagner | [Article](#)
- Whose Culture has Capital? A Critical Race Theory Discussion of Community Cultural Wealth – Tara J. Yoss | [Article](#)

Movies, Documentaries, & Videos

- Higher Learning | [Movie](#)
- The Impact of Social Class | [Video](#)
- People Like Us | [Documentary](#)
- Social Class & Poverty in the US | [Video](#)
- Titanic | [Movie](#)

Podcasts & Websites

- America's Poverty Course | [Website](#)
- Center for Working Class Studies | [Website](#)
- CLASS Action | [Website](#)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Classism | Socioeconomic Status | [Website](#)
- Four Degrees to the Streets | [Podcast](#)