(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

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