Lecture 11. Sociology 621. October 8, 2013 BASIC CONCEPTS OF CLASS FORMATION

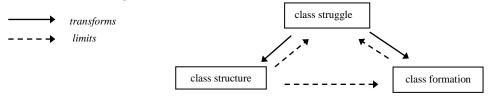
I. Stating the Problem

- 1. Structures and People
- 2. Potentials for constructing class formations: class structures define three kinds of people

Class structures determine:

- one's potential *friends*,
- one's potential *enemies* and
- one's potential *allies*

3. The Core Interest Logics of class formation



II. Why Interests alone cannot explain class formations

- 1. Consciousness.
- 2. Contradictory Interests.
- 3. Multidimensionality of interests: class/nonclass interests.
- 4. Lived experiences
- 5. Collective action dilemmas.
- 6. The problem of class capacities/power.

Key theoretical point: Class structures define a terrain of obstacles and opportunities for potential class formations.

III. A GENERAL APPROACH TO MICROFOUNDATIONS OF CLASS FORMATION

- 1. Game theory as a way of thinking about class struggle and class formation
- 2. An Example: the Prisoner's Dilemma
- 3. Radical Theorists Objections to Game Theory
 - 1). Egoism.
 - 2). Rationality
 - 3). Choice vs. constraint.

4. Modes of explaining social action

- 1). Action is scripted
- 2). Action is intentional
- 3). Action is strategic

5. The essential logic of strategic action

- 1. The reward of each is dependent upon the choice of all
- 2. The reward of each depends upon the reward of all
- 3. The choice of each depends upon the choice of all