

OUTLINE Lecture 11. Sociology 621 February 22, 2017
RATIONALITY, SOLIDARITY AND CLASS STRUGGLE

I. What is Solidarity?

Definition: *Class solidarity refers to the willingness of individual members of a class to support the collective struggles of the class by bearing various kinds of individual costs or sacrifices.*

II. Solidarity and the free-rider problem

1. The formal structure of the free-rider problem

		EVERYONE ELSE	
		Cooperates	Defects
"ME"	Cooperates	A	C
	Defects	B	D

2. Three quantities defined by this table are particularly important in Elster's analysis:

A-D: *the gain from cooperation*
B-A: *the gain from free-riding*
D-C: *the loss from unilateralism ("sucker penalty")*

3. The PD preference ordering: BADC.
4. A false solution

III. Solutions to the free rider problem in collective actions

1. *Collective Action with Rational, Selfish Actors.*
2. *Collective Action with Rational, Nonselfish Agents:* conditional altruism & assurance game
3. *Collective Action with Irrational Agents.*

IV. Social Conditions for Solidarity

1. *Concentration and Interdependence of Workers*
2. *Community*
3. *Leadership, activists and organization*