Social Stratification

- **Terms:**
  - Social Differentiation
  - Social Stratification
  - Social Class
  - Life Chances

- **Dimensions of Inequality**
  - Wealth
  - Income
  - Education
Stratified Participation of Adults

- **Upper classes**
  - preferences toward individual sports
  - “conspicuous consumption”

- **Working class--blue collar workers**
  - sponsored, organized team sports

- **Poor**
  - little or no participation in sport
  - community sponsorship in decline
Stratification and Youth Participation

- **Upper classes**
  - youth, like adults, focus more on individual sports

- **Working class**
  - more likely to participate than upper class

- **Poor**
  - sports requiring little or no equipment
Social Class and Spectators

- Two kinds of spectator
- Spectators who attend:
  - higher income and education -> more likely to attend
  - Spectator segregation: How has it changed and what does it mean?
    - Conspicuous consumption again
- Class and TV spectatorship
  - Sports Preferences
  - The Key indicator
The Appeal of ‘Prole’ or Psuedo Sports

- “Prole” and Psuedo Sports
  - Equipment is part of everyday life
  - Sports(?) are NOT school related
  - Images of power, strength, violence instead of agility, finesse, or strategy
  - Actors easy to identify with
  - Clearly defined moral themes
  - Spectator “involvement”
Sport and Social Mobility

- America’s “open” class system
- Does sport make people upwardly mobile?
  - Athletics and education
  - Mobility largely limited to males
  - “Occupational sponsorship”
  - “Well-rounded” education
  - Attitudes and behaviors of success
Myths about Sport and Mobility

- Sport provides free education
- Sports participation leads to college degree
- Pro career is likely
- Pro sports are way out of poverty, especially for racial minorities
- Sport is vehicle for upward mobility of women
- Profession sports provide lifelong security