

Assignment 1: Poverty

Due March 9 (Wednesday)
SOC 321(GIST 550) Wealth, Power, and Inequality
Spring 2022

Read one of the following three books and write an essay about the book.

1. (Option 1) McGarvey, Darren. 2017. *Poverty Safari: Understanding the Anger of Britain's Underclass*. Arcade.
2. (Option 2) Smarsh, Sarah. 2018. *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*. Scribner.
3. (Option 3) Desmond, Matthew. 2017. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Broadway Books.

This essay is a free-style writing. Your essay can be a social-scientific analyses on poverty; a personal reflection on poverty; or a book review. The main goal of this essay is to make you read a book on poverty and to give you a chance to think of the poverty problem in depth.

As a minimal guideline (which you don't have to follow), I recommend you to have the following contents in your essay:

- A brief summary or introduction of the book. It does not have to be a long summary. Nor your summary needs to cover the entire book.
- Discuss what poverty is. Try to provide qualitative and quantitative definitions of poverty. Provide an episode or an example from the book.
- Reflecting the book you read, discuss why some are poorer than others. What factors affect the poverty? Or you can discuss a particular aspect of the poverty problem. Your discussion points should be related with the book.
- Try to apply the concept of functionalism, conflict theories, Marx and Weber in your essay.

Due Date: March 9 Wednesday, 2022. Upload your essay to Canvas by midnight on March 9th. A late submission will cost 5 points each day. Weekend will be counted as 2 days.

Format: 5 pages minimum. One and half spacing. 12 point font. 1 inch left and right margin.