

Cultural Capital

Bourdieu

The background of the slide features several light gray, wavy, horizontal lines that sweep across the lower right portion of the page, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Cultural Capital Theory

- Influenced by Marxism
- Argument that w/class failure is the fault of the education system
 - Bias towards culture of dominant social classes
 - Devaluing of w/class knowledge & skills
- Cultural reproduction – main role of education – culture of dominant social group

Habitus

- Lifestyle, values, expectations of a social group
- Learnt by experience – internalised by individuals
- Varies between social groups
- Related to acquisition of cultural capital & “taste”
- Dominant habitus imposed on educational system

Cultural capital

- Dominant culture
- Used to obtain wealth & power
- Education assumes prior knowledge – builds on cultural capital established during early childhood
- Unevenly distributed through class structure
 - Class differences in educational achievement

- Educational achievement linked to possession of cultural capital
 - Accent, grammar, tone, general cultural knowledge
 - Interpretations of meanings
- m/class culture closer to dominant culture
 - Greater success

Further reading

- Sociology in Focus, p.297
- Sociology Themes & Perspectives, pp.836-838