

# The Sociology of Work: Structures and Inequalities

By Steven P. Vallas, William Finlay, Amy S. Wharton

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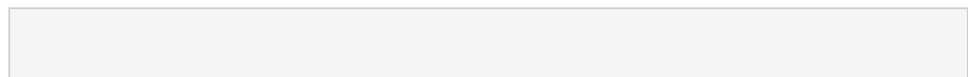
Understanding the world of work is often difficult for students--particularly undergraduates--to grasp. *The Sociology of Work: Structures and Inequalities* answers the need for a clear, engaging--and affordable--introduction to the basic concepts used by sociologists of work. Throughout, the text links the most up-to-date research and scholarship on work and occupations with their underlying sociological principles. Beginning with a thorough discussion of these core concepts, it goes on to show the historical developments of labor processes, thus allowing students to draw modern, real-world connections. The book also examines the contemporary work scene (both domestic and global), its concurrent occupational structures, and, all too often, its resultant inequalities.

While remarkably accessible, *The Sociology of Work* does not shy away from challenging students with weightier sociological concepts, theories, and methodological issues, as well as less commonly discussed topics like Luddism, the role of gender in the industrial revolution, and the rise and decline of the workers' movement.

Comprehensive and versatile, *The Sociology of Work: Structures and Inequalities* is ideal for courses in the sociology of work and occupations, and the sociology of organizations and corporations, as well as labor studies and human resource management.

## Features

- \* Incorporates issues of gender and race throughout
- \* Also includes separate and unique chapters on gender (Chapter 11), diversity (Chapter 12), immigration (Chapter 13), and globalization (Chapter 16)
- \* Emphasizes the continuing importance of social theory, both classical and contemporary
- \* Devotes an entire chapter to research methods and data sources



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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #784008 in Books
- Published on: 2009-01-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.40" h x .70" w x 9.10" l, 1.45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

"*The Sociology of Work* is an outstanding alternative to standard textbook fare. The book focuses on several core concepts that distinguish the sociological study of work from other ways of studying social life. It incorporates the latest research in an accessible way without talking down to students. The emphasis on the historical development of work is ideal for my course, and the writing style is much more engaging than [the] standard text. . . . The authors' writing style is a major strength of the book. They have clearly gone out of their way to communicate complex material in a straightforward and engaging manner." --Kevin Leicht, *University of Iowa*

"The book provides a more in-depth treatment of relevant empirical research, has better historical coverage, and has a more engaging writing style [than the competition]."--Michael Miller, *University of Texas, San Antonio*

"This extraordinary textbook appeals through its comprehensible and engaging style of writing without losing sight of being scientifically well founded... Its unique focus on work-related inequalities... offers new and interesting insights. Given the current debates about precarious work and gender equality this book is an important and up to date contribution which is definitely worth reading." --*Work, Employment & Society*

### About the Author

**Steven Vallas** is Professor and Chair of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University.

**William Finlay** is Professor and Department Head of Sociology at the University of Georgia.

**Amy Wharton** is Professor of Sociology at Washington State University and editor of the journal, *Social Problems*.

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