Understanding Social Life
Book Club Assignment

Objectives
- Learn to read academic monographs
- Analyze the institution of higher education in-depth with your peers
- Practice clear, concise, and critical writing

Overview

Step 1 – Get Books

Acquire both books. These can be purchased at the University Bookstore or purchased on Amazon. The DU Library has unlimited, electronic copies of *Paying for the Party* available, if you want to avoid purchasing that book. Both books are also physically on reserve at Anderson Academic Commons.

Step 2 - Read

Read the book. Take notes as you read. I recommend giving yourself a few sessions to do your reading, instead of trying to read the whole book in one sitting.

Step 3 – Reflect

Write a 500-word book review and submit it on Canvas. See page 2 of this document for more detailed instructions.

Step 4 – Post on Canvas

In your group's homepage on Canvas, post a little introduction about yourself and any thoughts about the book that you look forward to discussing.

Step 5 – Attend Book Club Meeting

This meeting will happen during our scheduled class time, but your group will select a location together. You will take a group selfie at the book club meeting and submit it to Canvas. This is how you will get points for attending book club.

Step 6 – Reflect on Book Club Meeting

In Canvas, write one paragraph reflecting on the topic after your book club meeting. Overall, did people in your group enjoy the book? What did they find most thought-provoking or important about it? What were some critiques your group had of the book? What, if anything, did you learn about how your perceptions of college compare to those of your peers?

Grading Outline

Item	Points
Book Review	100 points
Attending book club meeting	80 points
Written Reflection of Book Club Meeting	20 points

Book Review Prompt
Write a reflection of the book. It should be written in paragraph form and address the following questions:

1. What is the central argument of the book?
2. How did the author(s) gather data? Did the data support their central argument?
3. Do you think colleges should play a role in decreasing class inequality? Why or why not?
4. Based on the book, what would you like to see change—at the school(s) in the book, at public universities, or even in American life in general?
5. How did this book relate to your personal experience of college so far?

Formatting:
- Must not exceed 500 words. This count includes your parenthetical (or "in-text") citations. It does not include your Reference List, title, or header. **I will deduct 5% off your grade if you exceed the Word Count.**
- Must be in Times New Roman, size 12-font
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Use proper in-text citations when referring to the book. See here for more details: https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPACitations_Place.html
- Include a reference page that cites the book in APA style

Book Review Grading Rubric

CRITERIA	POINTS
STRUCTURE • Includes an **opening paragraph** clearly introduces paper topic and previews your position on the questions in the prompt • **Each body paragraph** is focused around one specific idea • Paragraphs use **topic sentences** to keep the paper organized	30 points
ANALYSIS • **Thoughtfully answers** all five questions in prompt • Demonstrates an **in-depth understanding** of the book • Uses examples from the book to **support assertions**	50 points
STYLE • Paragraphs **flow well** together; uses transition language • **Writing is academic, clear, and concise** • Free of grammar, spelling, or mechanical errors—**strong proofreading** • **Follows assignment format** (page numbers, double-spaced, 12 pt font, etc.) • **Proper citations** and bibliography in APA Style	20 points
TOTAL	100 points