

Sociology 125
Lecture 12 & 13:
Persistent poverty and increasing inequality
October 18 & 23

I. Facts of Poverty in America

II. Two types of explanations of persistent poverty:
blame the victim and blame the society

1. **BTV.** Two varieties: (a) Genetic inferiority; (b) Cultural inferiority
2. **Basic idea of Blame the Society**
3. **Ideological attractiveness of BTV**

III. Social structural explanations of growing inequality and poverty

1. **Exclusion from labor markets: Marginalization**
2. **Inequalities within labor markets:**
3. **Nonlabor market sources of inequality: Wealth Inequality**