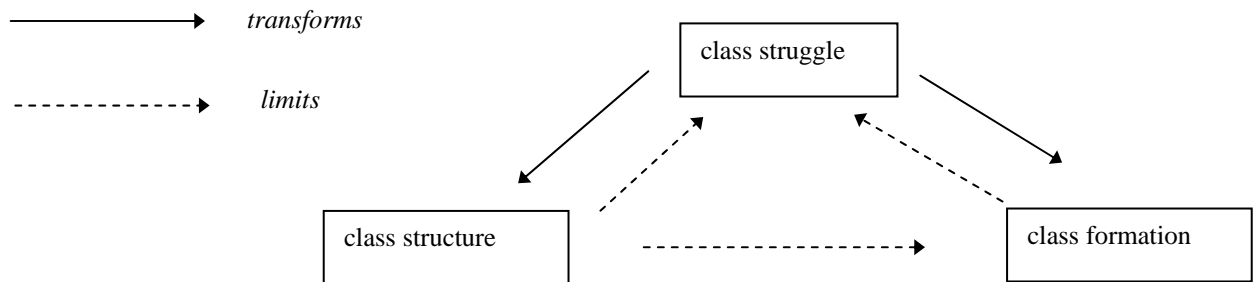


Outline Lecture 15. Sociology 621. November 2, 2011
BASIC CONCEPTS OF CLASS FORMATION

I. STATING THE PROBLEM

1. Structures and People
2. Potentials for constructing class formations: friends, enemies, allies
3. The Core Interest Logics of class formation



II. WHY INTERESTS ALONE CANNOT EXPLAIN CLASS FORMATIONS

1. Consciousness.
2. Contradictory Interests
3. Multidimensionality of Interests: class/nonclass interests
4. Collective Action Dilemmas.
5. The Problem of Class Capacities/power

Key conceptual point: *Class structures can be seen as defining the terrain of obstacles and opportunities for the creation of potential class formations.*

III. A GENERAL APPROACH TO MICROFOUNDATIONS OF CLASS FORMATION

1. Game theory as a way of thinking about class struggle and class formation
2. An Example: the Prisoner's Dilemma
3. Radical Theorists Objections to Game Theory
 - Egoism critique
 - hyper-rationality critique
 - voluntarism critique: explanations through intentions and choice.
4. Modes of explaining social action
 - 1). Action is scripted.
 - 2). Action is intentional.
 - 3). Action is strategic.
5. The essential logic of strategic action
 1. The reward of each is dependent upon the choice of all.
 2. The reward of each depends upon the reward of all.
 3. The choice of each depends upon the choice of all.