

OUTLINE. Sociology 621. Lecture 16. November 7, 2011
RATIONALITY, SOLIDARITY AND CLASS STRUGGLE

Definition of Solidarity as an Element in Class Formation:

Class solidarity refers to the willingness of individual members of a class to support the collective struggles of the class by bearing various kinds of individual costs or sacrifices.

I. Solidarity and the free-rider problem

1. The formal structure of the free-rider problem

		EVERYONE ELSE	
		Cooperates	Defects
“ME”	Cooperates	A	C
	Defects	B	D

2. Three quantities:

A-D: *the gain from cooperation.*

B-A: *the gain from free-riding*

D-C: *the loss from unilateralism* -- “sucker penalty”

3. The PD preference ordering: BADC.

4. A false solution

II. Solutions to the free rider problem in collective actions

1. *Collective Action with Rational, Selfish Actors.*
2. *Collective Action with Rational, Nonselfish Agents: conditional altruism & assurance game*
3. *Collective Action with Irrational Agents.*

III. Social Conditions for Solidarity

1. *Concentration and Interdependence of Workers.*
2. *Community*
3. *Leadership, activists and organization.*