



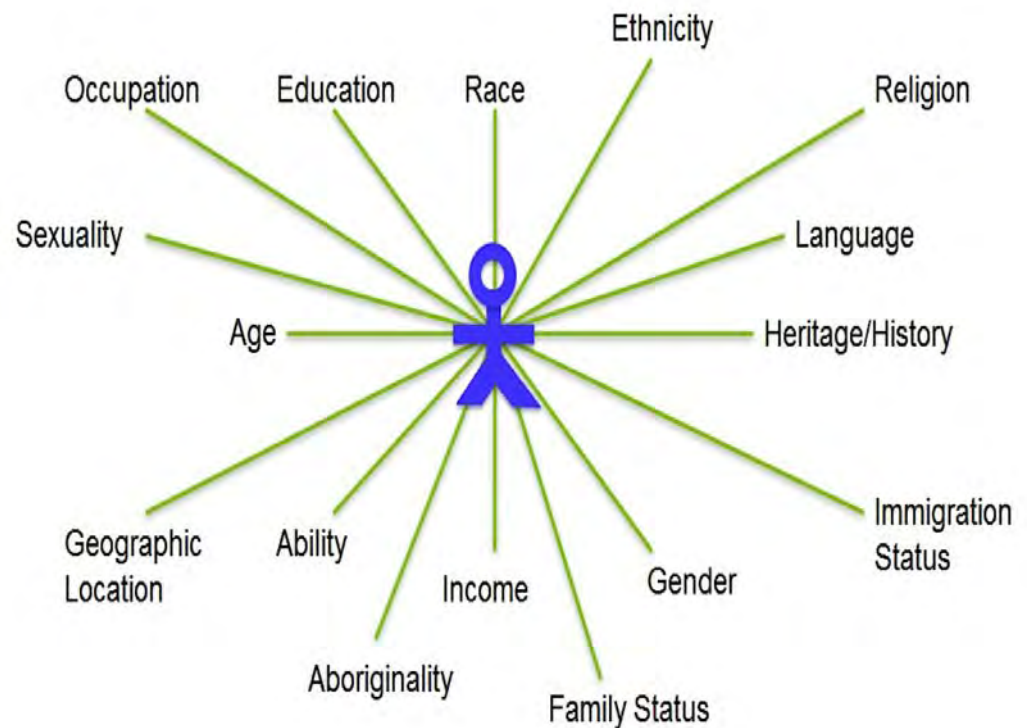
Social Inequality in the U.S.

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Inequality and Intersectionality

✧ **Social Inequality:**
Identities exist in hierarchies, providing advantages and disadvantages that are interconnected

✧ **Intersectionality:** The way in which different axes of identity shape an individual's relationship with power



Understanding Poverty

- ✧ **Poverty:** A condition of deprivation due to economic circumstances severe enough that the individual cannot live with dignity in society
- ✧ The current poverty line for a U.S. family of 4 (2 children) is \$22,162
 - The U.S. cost of living is \$35,000 - \$50,000 depending on location
 - The difference is a cause of debate and tension
 - About 15% of people in the U.S. and 25% of those in Oswego live in poverty

THINKING CRITICALLY!

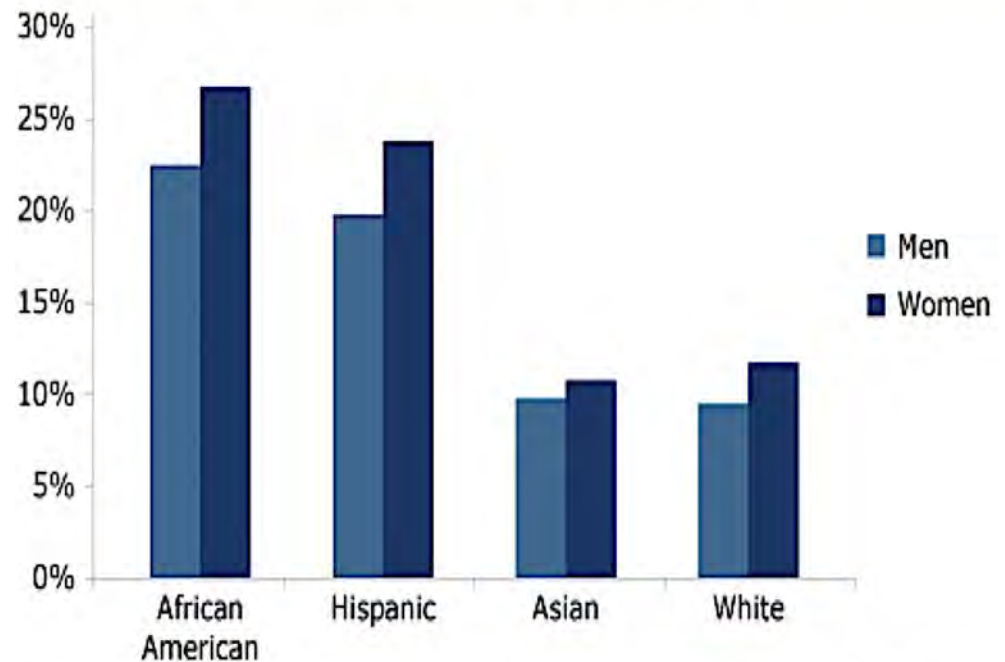
What does it mean to live with dignity within your society?



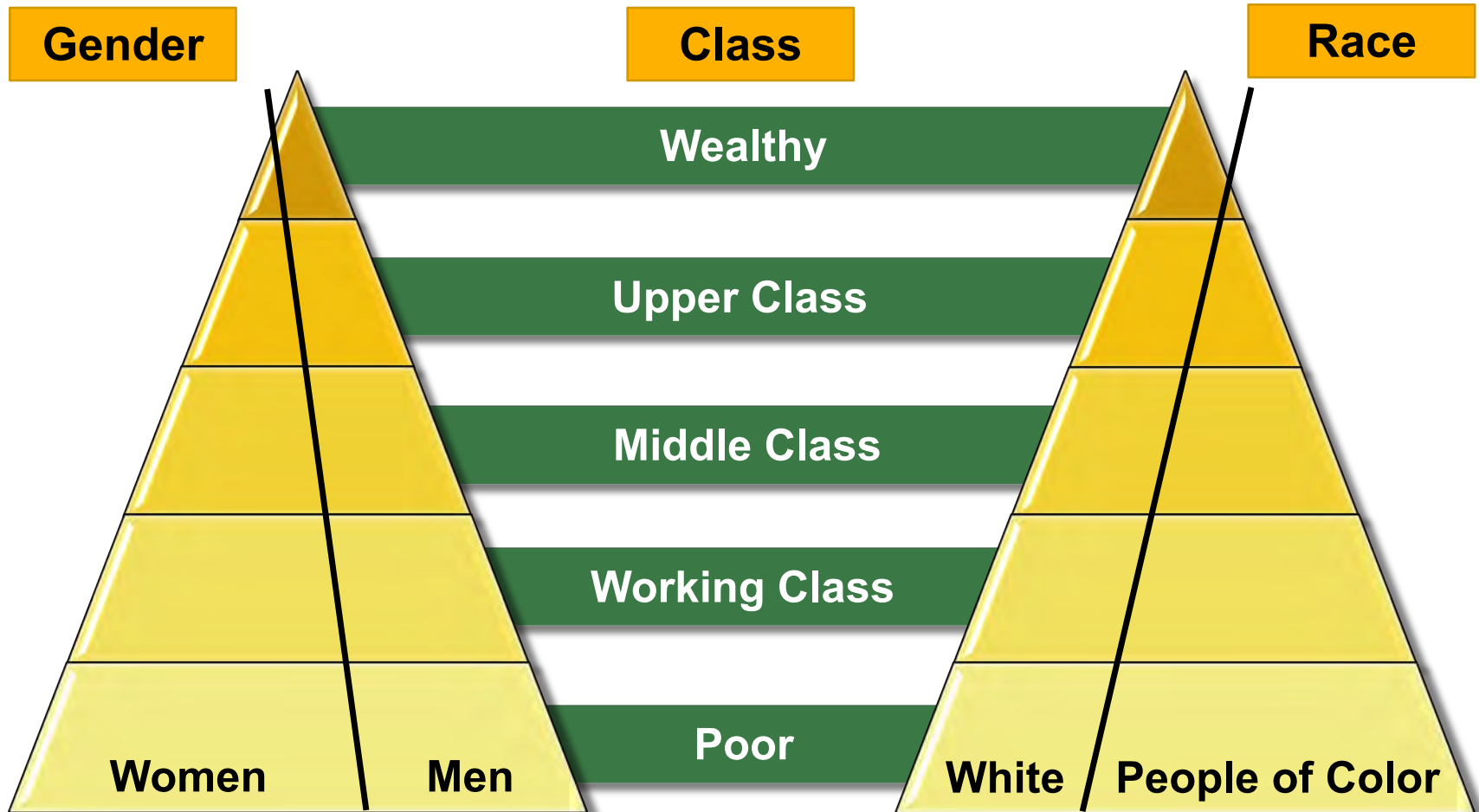
Poverty and Discrimination

- ✧ Poverty is a form of social inequality that is the result of structural conditions within a society
- ✧ A contributing factor to poverty is discrimination based on intersections of identities such as race, class, gender, religion, and sexuality

Percentage of men and women in poverty by race/ethnicity



Intersections of Inequality



Causes and Consequences

- ✧ High rates of poverty in the U.S. are linked to:
 - Concentration of wealth
 - Uneven distribution of social capital or non-tangible resources individuals can access in times of need
 - Discrimination against certain groups
 - Stereotypes about the poor

THINKING CRITICALLY!

What are common stereotypes that exist about poor people in the U.S.?



Low-Wage Family Budget Activity

- ✧ In order to challenge common stereotypes about the poor we are going to do a “class” activity!
 - Form groups of 2 or 3
 - Get out paper, pens and a calculator (*Ok to use your phone*)
 - Using the provided handouts, work through the scenario
 - In your group discuss the questions presented as you work out a budget



Thinking Critically!

- ✧ How did it go? What challenges did you face?
- ✧ How does your own intersectional identity (race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, location, ability, etc.), give you advantages or disadvantages in this activity?
- ✧ How does your experience challenge common stereotypes about people living in poverty?
- ✧ What is the most important thing you learned from this activity?

