# Part 10: Race, Ethnicity, Class and Inequality

## Key Terms and Definitions

**Class**: the ranking of social groups based on attributes of achieved status, such as wealth, occupation, or social standing.

**Cultural capital**: social assets of a person; socially legitimized forms of knowledge and practice that promote social mobility.

**Ethnicity**: belonging to a social group that shares a distinctive history and customs.

**Genetics**: the study of heredity; how characteristics are passed from one generation.

**Genotype**: the physical characteristics of an individual, resulting from the interaction of the genotype and environment.

**Phenotype**: the physical characteristics of an individual, resulting from the interaction of the genotype and environment.

**Race**: a social and cultural construct that reflects categorizations of people into groups based on specific physical traits.

**Racialized geography**:neighborhood-wide patterns of segregation by race.

**Racism**: the systematic oppression through unequal and repressive practices and beliefs of one or more socially defined race by another race.

**Stratification:** hierarchical classifications of people in which some people have greater access to wealth, power, and prestige.

**White privilege:** the advantages of being identified as white skinned.

**Whiteness:** an unmarked racial category, one that does not involve value judgments linked to skin color and other physical traits.