RESOURCE GUIDE
Socioeconomic diversity

Books

The Great Gatsby
By F. Scott Fitzgerald
A tragic love story, a mystery, and a social commentary on American life through the observance of the wasteful lives of four wealthy characters.

Readings for Diversity and Social Justice
By Maurianne Adams
A collection of readings covering the full range of social oppressions from a social justice standpoint.

The Loudest Duck: Moving Beyond Diversity while Embracing Differences to Achieve Success at Work
By Laura A. Liswood
A business fable that offers an alternate view of a multicultural workplace using practical stories and cultural anecdotes.

Privilege, Power, and Difference
By Allan G. Johnson
A book that examines systems of privilege in our society through engaging examples. It’s written with an accessible, conversational style to examine the underlying nature and consequences of privilege and readers’ connection to it.

The Outsiders
By S.E. Hinton
A coming-of-age novel that details the conflict between two rival gangs divided by their socioeconomic status: the working class and the upper-class.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City
By Matthew Desmond
A transformative sociological viewpoint on poverty and economic exploitation which also provides fresh ideas for solving one of America’s most devastating problems.

Nickel and Dimed
By Barbara Ehrenreich
A grueling, hair-raising, and darkly funny odyssey through the underside of working America.

The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America
By Katherine Newman, Victor Tan Chen
In describing the 54 million Americans sandwiched in between poor and the middle class, this book focuses on a group of people without either government assistance or financial stability.
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The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It
By Paul Collier
This book shines a much-needed light on a group of small nations and argues that the “standard solutions” aren’t effective.

Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think
By Hans Rosling, Ola Rosling, Anna Rosling Rönnlund
An urgent and essential book that will change the way you see the world and empower you to respond to the crises and opportunities of the future.

Educated
By Tara Westover
An account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties.

Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty
By Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo
An intimate view of life on 99 cents a day, this book shows the creating a world without poverty begins with the daily decision the poor face.

Miseducation (21st Century Standpoints)
By Diane Reay
The book addresses the urgent question of why the working classes are still faring so much worse than the upper and middle classes in education, and vitally - what we can do to achieve a fairer system.

Born on Third Base
By Chuck Collins
A one percenter makes the case for tackling inequality, bringing wealth home, and committing to the common good.

Toxic Inequality
By Thomas M. Shapiro
Following nearly two hundred families of different races and income levels over a period of twelve years, Shapiro’s research documents the real reasons some families build wealth while others struggle in poverty.
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Podcasts & TED talks

More or Less: Behind the Stats
By Tim Harford, BBC
An unbeatable view into the relationship between economic issues and the societies in which they exist, all filtered through the perspective of statistics to give things a usefully mathematical spin.

The Post-Crisis Consumer
By John Gerzema
Discover the four major cultural shifts driving new consumer behavior and how businesses are evolving to connect with thoughtful spending.

Less Stuff, More Happiness
By Graham Hill
Can having less stuff, in less room, lead to more happiness? Graham makes the case for taking up less space and lays out three rules for editing your life.

How to Buy Happiness
By Michael Norton
Fascinating research on how money can indeed buy happiness -- when you don't spend it on yourself.

See How the Rest of the World Lives, Organized by Income
By Anna Rosling Rönnlund
Anna Rosling Rönnlund sent photographers to 264 homes in 50 countries (and counting!) to document the stoves, bed, toilets, toys and more in households from every income bracket around the world.

Poverty Isn’t a Lack of Character; It’s a Lack of Cash
By Rutger Bregman
Learn more about guaranteed basic income’s 500-year history and a forgotten modern experiment where it actually worked.

The Danger of a Single Story
By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.
Films & Television

Nosedive episode - Black Mirror
By Joe Wright
A woman desperate to boost her social media score hits the jackpot when she’s invited to a swanky wedding, but the trip doesn’t go as planned.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
By Tim Burton
A young boy wins a tour through the most magnificent chocolate factory in the world, led by the world's most unusual candy maker.

Waste Land
By Lucy Walker, Karen Harley, João Jardim
On the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro is Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill, where men and women sift through garbage for a living. Artist Vik Muniz produces portraits of the workers and learns about their lives.

Akeelah and the Bee
By Doug Atchison
Akeelah’s aptitude for words earns her an opportunity to compete for a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The Divide
By Xavier Gens
The story of seven individuals striving for a better life in the modern-day US and UK — where the top 0.1 percent owns as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent.

Born in Flames
By Lizzie Borden
When Adelaide Norris, the black radical founder of the Woman's Army, is mysteriously killed, a diverse coalition of women — across all lines of race, class, and sexual preference — emerges to blow the System apart.

Burning
By Chang-dong Lee
A psychological mystery drama that showcases two South Koreas. The first is a country of leisure, where 20- and 30-somethings stroll through elegant cafés and bob to K-pop club bangers, the second faces ongoing economic turmoil.
Films & Television

13TH
By Ava DuVernay
Scholars, activists, and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom.

Minimalist: A Documentary About the Important Things
By Matt D’Avelia
People dedicated to rejecting the American ideal that things bring happiness are interviewed in this documentary showing the virtues of less is more.

Blogs, press and websites

Is Google’s Caste System the Future of the Workforce?
By Maya Kosoff
Silicon Valley is creating a new tier of second-class laborers to keep down costs and fuel corporate profits.

Reservation: Understanding The Past, Present And Solutions
By Sumedha Upadhyay
Understanding caste based reservation system in India and how it impacts perceptions, capability, access and rights in the country to education, jobs and privileges.

Why Class Diversity Matters At Work
By Adi Gaskell
It’s widely accepted now that diversity is important in the workplace, and this research provides a timely reminder that social class is an important aspect of that diversity.

Why Companies Should Add Class to Their Diversity Discussions
By Joan C. Williams, Marina Multhaup, Sky Mihaylo
Class-based bias, just like gender- and racial-based biases, can seep into workplace systems and artificially hinder the career success of those groups.

Black Friday Highlights the Contrast Between Rich and Poor
By Shan Li
Discounters and mid-priced chains, eager to gain an edge on competitors for limited gift budgets, have again moved their opening times earlier into Thanksgiving. Higher-end retailers, however, are keeping their doors firmly shut until Friday.
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Blogs, press and websites

**Study Shows How Class and Gender Intersect in Hiring Bias**
By Emily Strother
A highlight on new research into how signals of social class disclosed on resumes may have an impact on hiring.

**Positive & Negative Effects of Tourism**
By Laurie Jo Miller Farr
A breakdown of economic, environmental, and social effects of the tourism industry.

**Slum Tourism: How It Began, The Impact It Has, And Why It Became So Popular**
By Wade Shepard
As slum tourism grows in popularity it has become an increasingly polarizing and controversial topic.

**New Orleans’ Tourism Industry Booms but Income Inequality Remains Entrenched**
By Robert McClendon
The industry has failed to create a solid middle class in a city riven by some of the worst income inequality in the country.

**What is India’s Caste System?**
By BBC
The system which divides Hindus into rigid hierarchical groups based on their karma (work) and dharma (the Hindi word for religion, but here it means duty) is generally accepted to be more than 3,000 years old.

**Is There A Corporate 'Caste System'?**
By Dana Brownlee
Companies benefit when all voices are truly valued, but that’s far from reality in many corporate workplaces.