

### Study Questions, Week 3

**Topic for the Week:** Socialization

**Readings for the Week:** Macionis text, Chapter 3

**Questions:**

- (1) Sociologists sometimes say “society makes us human.” Explain what this means. What types of evidence and examples can we draw upon to understand this notion?
- (2) What might happen to a child that lacks contact with other humans at early ages? Can such children be considered “human?”
- (3) Identify the contributions of the following theorists to our understanding of processes of socialization:  
  
Sigmund Freud  
Jean Piaget  
Lawrence Kohlberg  
Carol Gilligan  
George Herbert Mead  
Erik Erikson
- (4) Explain how each of the following might contribute to Bill’s socialization:  
  
Bill’s parents  
Bill’s elementary school teachers  
Bill’s childhood friends  
Bill’s university professors  
The mass media
- (5) Are the effects of our childhood (primary) socialization locked in? What evidence can you cite to support your response?
- (7) Explain how perceptions of what is normal affect socialization at different stages of the life course.
- (8) What is the product of socialization?
- (9) What is a *total institution*? Do you believe total institutions can be effective agents of resocialization? Why or why not? Support your response with evidence.
- (10) Define the following terms:

socialization  
personality

behaviorism  
hidden curriculum

ageism  
gerontocracy

cohort  
resocialization