Study Questions, Week 4

**Topic for the Week:** Social Interaction and Social Structure

**Readings for the Week:** Macionis text, Chapter 4

**Questions:**

1. What is meant by the term *social interaction*. What are the *functions* and *products* of social interaction?

2. What is meant by the term *social structure*. What are the components of social structure? Provide concrete examples of the component of social structure and briefly describe some functions of each.

3. Distinguish the following concepts: *ascribed status*, *achieved status*, *master status*. What is the relationship between *statuses* and *roles*? Between *statuses* and *social hierarchies*?

4. What is meant by *role conflict*? What is meant by *role strain*? Provide an example of each from your own experiences.

5. Sociologists argue that society is socially constructed. What does this mean? How do the *Thomas theorem*, *ethnomethodology* and *dramaturgical analysis* contribute to our understanding of social construction processes?

6. Provide an example of how social situations are constructed. What roles do *nonverbal communication*, *idealization*, and *tact* play in social construction processes?

7. Are social constructionists generally more interested in *objective* or *subjective* reality? Explain.

8. The social construction of reality occurs through interaction. How might *emotions*, *language*, and *humor* influence the *meaning* attached to a particular interaction? What role does *perception* play in this process?