

## Study Questions, Week 5

**Topic for the Week:** Groups and Organizations

**Readings for the Week:** Macionis text, Chapter 5

**Questions:**

- (1) What is the difference between a *group*, a *category* and a *crowd*?
- (2) Provide a definition for the following types of groups:
  - Primary groups
  - Secondary groups
  - In-groups and out-groups
  - Reference groups
  - Dyads
  - Networks
  - Formal organizations
- (3) Illustrate the concept of *secondary* groups by (a) distinguishing it from *primary* groups, and (b) providing examples of secondary groups and explaining their structure. What is the purpose of a secondary group, and how does this differ from the purpose of a primary group?
- (4) What is the difference between *instrumental* and *expressive* leadership? Under what conditions might one type of leadership be more necessary than another? Identify the salient characteristics of *authoritarian*, *democratic* and *laissez-faire* leadership. How might leadership style affect an organization?
- (5) What are some group characteristics that facilitate or inhibit social diversity and interaction among people from different cultures?
- (6) Identify the salient characteristics of *utilitarian*, *normative*, *voluntary*, and *coercive* organizations.
- (7) Max Weber suggested *bureaucracies* are formal organizations with specific structures. Identify and explain six characteristics of bureaucracies, according to Weber. How do bureaucracies arise in modern society? What issues arise as formal organizations evolve?
- (8) What are some of the problems that arise from bureaucratic forms of organization? Describe a personal experience that illustrates each problem.
- (9) What is meant by the “*McDonaldization of Society*?” How does McDonaldization relate to Weber’s theories of formal organizations? What are the benefits and costs of an emphasis on *efficiency*, *calculability*, *uniformity* and *automation*?
- (10) A general theme in this chapter is that larger groups tend to be more formalized. What does this mean and why is this so?