Study Questions, Week 9

**Topic for the Week:** Social Relations: Gender and Race

**Readings for the Week:** Macionis text, Chapter 10 (pp. 244–261) and 11 (pp. 271–282)

**Questions:**

1. What is the difference between *sex* and *gender*? What is meant by *gender stratification*? Why is gender a topic that interests sociologists?

2. Cite evidence that supports the notion that gender is a *cultural construction*. What are some of the traditional notions of gender identity? Can you think of examples that contradict these notions?

3. How is gender inequality supported and reproduced by various social institutions in the U.S.?

4. How has women’s roles in the workplace changed over the years? Consider wages paid to women, the *second shift*, and new opportunities available to women.

5. What is meant by the term *minority*? Are women a minority group?

6. Identify various forms of violence against women. Why does society tolerate discriminatory violence?

7. What is the difference between race and ethnicity? What does it mean to say race and ethnicity are social constructs?

8. What factors generate ethnic identity? Why do some groups feel a strong ethnic identity, while other groups do not?

9. What is meant by prejudice, discrimination and racism? What is the difference between individual and institutional discrimination? How can we recognize or identify institutional discrimination?

10. Define the following terms and explain their connection to racial inequality: stereotype, scapegoat, pluralism, assimilation, segregation, genocide.