

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.