

Study Questions
Week 10

- (1) What is meant by *socialization*? Provide an example of socialization drawn from your experiences.
- (2) What is meant by *social self*? In what ways does socialization contribute to the social self?
- (3) Charles Horton Cooley developed the concept of the *looking-glass self*. What does this refer to? What does the concept of the looking-glass self tell us about socialization?
- (4) George Herbert Mead distinguished the idea of “I” and “me.” What is the difference between the two, according to Mead? How do children’s games contribute to the “I” and the “me?”
- (5) What is meant by *agents of socialization*? Explain how each of the following agents of socialization might form an individual’s sense of self: family, school, peer groups, workplace. How would life be different without these agents of socialization?
- (6) What is a *total institution*? How do these help us understand processes of socialization?
- (7) Both McIntyre and Davis (“Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation”) discuss the cases of “Anna” and “Isabelle,” two girls who did not receive normal socialization. What was the result? What do these cases tell us about innate vs. learned behavior?
- (8) For most of us, our primary socialization occurs within the family; our secondary socialization begins when we attend school. According to Gracey (“Learning the Student Role: Kindergarten as Academic Boot Camp”), how do kindergartens carry out socialization? What are the manifest and latent messages that are learned through kindergarten activities?
- (9) One of the fundamental tenets of sociology is that society is *socially constructed*. In what ways do the processes of socialization illustrate the concept of social construction?