

Study Questions
Week 14

- (1) Explain the relationship between industrialization and inequality. How have values changed in society as industrialization has progressed, and how have these encouraged greater inequality?
- (2) Explain what McIntyre means when she says “a dollar is not always a dollar.”
- (3) What is meant by *prejudice*? How does prejudice differ from prejudgment? How do stereotypes support or reinforce prejudices?
- (4) What is meant by *discrimination*? How does prejudice differ from discrimination? Do prejudice and discrimination always go together? Explain.
- (5) What does McIntyre mean when she talks of *isms*? Identify some *isms* common in U.S. society. What is the relationship between these, and dominant and minority groups? Explain the role of power in institutionalizing these *isms*, and why McIntyre claims not all discriminatory acts are *isms*.
- (6) Do people of different classes experience *isms* differently? Do *isms* go away as one moves up the class ladder? Cite evidence to support your response.
- (7) What is meant by the term *race*? By *ethnicity*? Explain some of the difficulties in defining these terms.
- (8) McIntyre makes the point that race, ethnicity and gender are socially constructed. Cite evidence presented by McIntyre and by Taub & McLorg (“The Role of Gender Socialization in Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa”) that makes the case that gender, seemingly a biological characteristic, also has strong social dimensions.
- (9) What factors lead to a female’s perception of ideal body shape? What are some of the outcomes of our socially produced ideals of body type?
- (10) What factors distinguish “decent” from “street” families? To what extent do these perceptions represent reality? How do these labels shape people’s lives?