Study Questions, Week 4

*Topic for the Week:* Social Interaction and Social Structure

*Readings for the Week:*

Macionis text, Chapter 4

Reader, Chapters 15 (Hall and Hall) and 16 (Wood)

*Questions:*

1. What is meant by the term *social interaction*. What are the *functions* and *products* of social interaction?

2. What is meant by the term *social structure*. What are the components of social structure? Provide concrete examples of the component of social structure and briefly describe some functions of each.

3. Distinguish the following concepts: *ascribed status*, *achieved status*, *master status*. What is the relationship between *statuses* and *roles*? Between *statuses* and *social hierarchies*?

4. What is meant by *role conflict*? What is meant by *role strain*? Provide an example of each from your own experiences.

5. Sociologists argue that society is socially constructed. What does this mean? How do the *Thomas theorem*, *ethnomethodology* and *dramaturgical analysis* contribute to our understanding of social construction processes?

6. Provide an example of how social situations are constructed. What roles do *nonverbal communication*, *idealization*, and *tact* play in social construction processes?

7. Are social constructionists generally more interested in *objective* or *subjective* reality? Explain.

8. The social construction of reality occurs through interaction. How might *emotions*, *language*, and *humor* influence the *meaning* attached to a particular interaction? What role does *perception* play in this process?

9. Explain the role of nonverbal communication in social interaction. What messages are transmitted nonverbally? How do these affect social organization?

10. How do men’s and women’s friendships differ? Explain how these differences create structures that influence behavior.