Delta State University
Sociology 101
Spring Semester 2005

Study Questions, Week 6

Topic for the Week: Groups and Organizations

Readings for the Week:

Society: The Basics, Chapter 5

Sociological Footprints, Chapters 19 (Hacker) and 21 (Kahlenberg)

Questions:

(1) What is the difference between a *group*, a *category* and a *crowd*?

(2) Provide a definition for the following types of groups:

•Primary groups	•Dyads
•Secondary groups	•Networks
•In-groups and out-groups	•Formal organizations
•Reference groups	

(3) Illustrate the concept of secondary groups by (a) distinguishing it from primary groups, and (b) providing examples of secondary groups and explaining their structure. What is the purpose of a secondary group, and how does this differ from the purpose of a primary group?

(4) What is the difference between *instrumental* and *expressive* leadership? Under what conditions might one type of leadership be more necessary than another? Identify the salient characteristics of *authoritarian*, *democratic* and *laissez-faire* leadership. How might leadership style affect an organization?

(5) What are some group characteristics that facilitate or inhibit social diversity and interaction among people from different cultures?

(6) Identify the salient characteristics of *utilitarian*, *normative*, *voluntary*, and *coercive* organizations.

(7) Max Weber suggested *bureaucracies* are formal organizations with specific structures. Identify and explain six characteristics of bureaucracies, according to Weber. How do bureaucracies arise in modern society? What issues arise as formal organizations evolve?

(8) What are some of the problems that arise from bureaucratic forms of organization? Describe a personal experience that illustrates each problem.

(9) What is meant by the "*McDonaldization of Society*?" How does McDonaldization relate to Weber's theories of formal organizations? What are the benefits and costs of an emphasis on *efficiency*, *calculability*, *uniformity* and *automation*?

(10) A general theme in this chapter is that larger groups tend to be more formalized. What does this mean and why is this so?

(11) How does money affect how people organize into social groups and organizations? How has this changed in the U.S.?

(12) How does race affect how people organize into social groups and organizations? Which is more influential, class or race?