Study Questions, Week 10

**Topic for the Week:** Social Relations: Gender and Race

**Readings for the Week:**

*Society: The Basics*, Chapter 10 (pp. 244–261) and 11 (pp. 271–282)

*Sociological Footprints*, Chapter 14 (Fishbach et al.) and 46 (Merton)

**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 have 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. What is the difference between *race* and *ethnicity*? What does it mean to say race and ethnicity are social constructs?

7. What factors generate *ethnic identity*? Why do some groups feel a strong ethnic identity, while other groups do not?

8. 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?

9. Define the following terms and explain their connection to racial inequality: *stereotype*, *scapegoat*, *pluralism*, *assimilation*, *segregation*, *genocide*.

10. What is meant by “*domestic violence*?” Provide examples of different acts that can be considered domestic violence. What factors contribute to domestic violence? What are some of the consequences of domestic violence?

11. What is the “*American creed*?” How is the American creed represented with respect to prejudice and discrimination?