

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?