

## Study Questions, Week 3

(1) What is meant by the term *social structure*? Identify five elements of social structure and briefly define each.

(2) What is the difference between *ascribed* and *achieved* status? For each of the following, state whether it is an ascribed or achieved status:

- College Freshman
- Female
- Teenager
- Fraternity President
- Rock Star
- Canadian
- Catholic
- Millionaire

(3) Provide an example of a characteristic you possess that you think is a *master* status. Explain how this status has affected your life, and why this makes it a master status.

(4) What is the difference between a *status* and a *role*? From your own experiences, provide examples of *role conflict*, *role strain*, and *role exit*.

(5) Provide examples of *social institutions*. What are some of the functions that social institutions play in our lives? How might social institutions contribute to social conflict? What is the relationship between institutions, roles and statuses?

(6) What is meant by the term *culture*? Identify four elements of culture and briefly define each.

(7) What role do *symbols* play in culture? Explain the importance of symbols to language, and of language to culture.

(8) Identify different types of norms. Are people more likely to adhere to formal or informal norms? Explain.

(9) What is the relationship between norms and expectations? Between norms and sanctions?

(10) What role do values play in creating culture? What are the dominant values in U.S. society? Among students at Delta State University? In your family?