

## Study Questions, Week 5

- (1) Describe the key contributions to understanding social change in evolutionary theory, functionalist theory and conflict theory.
- (2) How has technology shaped social change throughout human history? Identify four technological innovations that led to substantial social change, and describe the societies each produced.
- (3) How are computer technology and biotechnology producing social change in current society, and how might they provoke social change in the future?
- (4) In what ways have technology affected culture, social control and social stratification?
- (5) What is *demography*? What are the key demographic variables?
- (6) Explain Thomas Malthus' theory of population growth. Why was Malthus opposed to growing populations? What was Karl Marx's response?
- (7) Explain the theory of demographic transition. At each stage, describe demographic and social conditions.
- (8) How has the population of the world changed throughout human history? What factors contribute to population growth? To a stable population?
- (9) Draw on the theories of Malthus, Marx, and the demographic transition to describe the relationship between population and poverty.
- (10) Given fertility patterns in the United States, should we be concerned about the population explosion? Why or why not?