

## Study Questions, Week 11

- (1) What is meant by the term *gender roles*? Identify several masculine and feminine gender roles. How would you respond if you saw someone violating these roles?
- (2) How can we separate out the *biological* and *social* influences that determine appropriate gender-related behavior? What have social scientists learned?
- (3) Explain the functionalist, conflict, feminist and interactionist perspectives on *gender stratification*. What approach does each perspective take research on gender roles? What evidence has each perspective produced to support its research on gender roles?
- (4) Provide evidence that supports the view that women, a majority of the U.S. population in numbers, are actually a *minority group* in society. Consider the *status* of women in *political* and *economic* institutions. Incorporate the concepts of the *glass ceiling* and the *second shift* in your explanation.
- (5) What is meant by *sexism*? Define and provide examples of the effects of *institutionalized sexism* and *sexual harassment*.
- (6) What is a *family*, from a sociological perspective? How does family differ from *kinship*? How does the *institution of the family* vary across cultures? Consider both family structure and marriage patterns.
- (7) Describe the functionalist, conflict, interactionist and feminist perspectives on *marriage and the family*. What functions do families serve? How do families contribute to social inequality?
- (8) Is *love* necessary for a successful marriage? What factors account for marriage patterns? What do these suggest about love and marriage?
- (9) How does *family structure* vary in the United States? Describe characteristics of the following family types: nuclear family, families with adopted children, dual-income families, single-parent families, blended or stepfamilies, marriage without children, lesbian and gay families.
- (10) How have patterns of *divorce* changed over time? What factors are associated with increased divorce rates? How does divorce affect children?