

## Study Questions, Week 12

- (1) What is *religion* from a sociological perspective? What is meant by *sacred* and *profane*? How do these concepts help us understand religion?
- (2) Identify characteristics of the predominant faiths in the world today. What do these religions have in common?
- (3) What are some of the important functions that religion plays in society? Describe the basis of social cohesion in each function.
- (4) Distinguish religious *beliefs*, *rituals*, and *experiences*. How does each create social cohesion?
- (5) Identify four distinct types of *religious organizations*. What are the criteria used to group various faiths and practices into these ideal types? Provide a dynamic theory of how these different types interact.
- (6) What is meant by *education*, from a sociological perspective? What important functions does education serve in society? What are some of the *hidden functions* of education?
- (7) How has *gender* affected one's educational opportunities in the past, and today? What has been done to address inequities by gender? Have these policies been successful? Explain.
- (8) What issues arise when schools become formalized into bureaucratic organizations? How do these issues affect teachers and students? What other groups are affected by bureaucratic schools?
- (9) How do conditions outside of a school affect what goes on in the classrooms? Consider, for example, how *poverty* and *access to resources* affects one's educational opportunities. Contrast the conditions found in impoverished schools and upper middle class schools, as discussed by Kozol.
- (10) How will the *life chances* differ for those attending school in East St. Louis, IL and those in Rye, NY? In what ways do educational institutions open opportunities for some and constrain others?