

Study guide

Exam 2, fall 2009

This exam will follow the same format as the first, but it will be longer because there is a lot more material. **You must use the same *five-letter* code as you did on the first exam.**

TEXTBOOK

Chapter 3 – Culture

1. Know the basic terms & how they are related to each other: culture (material & nonmaterial), cultural universal, values, norms (proscriptive & prescriptive), mores (mor'-rays), folkways, social control, real & ideal culture, subculture, counterculture, multiculturalism, ethnocentrism, culture shock, cultural relativism
2. What is the current evolutionary perspective on culture & human intelligence?
3. Why is language such an important part of a society's culture?
4. Think about the list of American values on p. 66. Macionis's source is a 1970 edition of a book originally published in the 1950s. How much do you think American values have changed since then?
5. What are the basic causes of cultural change? What is cultural lag?
6. What factors are contributing to the formation of a global culture? What factors are resisting the process?
8. Know the gist of the three theoretical perspectives on culture: functionalism, conflict, sociobiology.

Chapter 4 – Society

1. What is a society & how is it different from a culture?
2. Know the distinguishing characteristics of the different types of societies: hunting & gathering, horticultural, pastoral, agrarian, industrial & post-industrial.
3. In Lenski's theory, what drives the process of sociocultural evolution?
4. How has technology changed the status of women?
5. Check the graph on p. 94. What the implications of this graph for societal change in your lifetime?
6. Founding fathers– the big three
 - a. Karl Marx –You should know his theory in detail, mainly because his ideas have had a huge impact on world history. What was the historical context of Marx's theory? Be familiar with his terminology.
 - b. Max Weber (Vay-bur) – What did Weber mean by the rationalization of society? Know the gist of his theory. Is this process still going on today?
 - c. Know the gist of Weber's theory about the origins of capitalism. Weber's theory is basically about the power of ideas to change society. How is his perspective different from the Marxist view depicted in Figure 4-2 on p. 99?
 - d. Emile Durkheim – Know the main ideas & key terms.

Chapter 5 – Socialization

1. What is socialization?
2. What is Macionis's position on the nature-nurture debate?
3. How are studies of social isolation, especially isolated children, relevant to the topic of socialization? What conclusion does Macionis draw from them?
4. Of the six socialization theories, you should know the main ideas in 1) Freudian theory, 2) Jerome Kohlberg's theory of moral development & Gilligan's modification of the theory, & 3) George Herbert Mead's theory. More basically, what does each theory tell us about socialization?
5. What are the various agents of socialization?
6. Socialization is often described as something that is *done to* people, but we're usually willing

- participants in the process. How does anticipatory socialization illustrate that point?
7. How did the industrial revolution influence conceptions about childhood & adolescence? Macdonis says that our conceptions of childhood & adolescence are products of the industrial revolution.
 5. What is resocialization? How are people resocialized in the total institutions described by Goffman?

Chapter 6 - Social Interaction in Everyday Life

1. Know the concepts that are commonly used to describe social structure in everyday situations: status (ascribed & achieved), status set, master status, role & role conflict.
2. What does “social construction of reality” mean? How would a self-fulfilling prophecy illustrate this process?
3. Understand the gist of Erving Goffman’s ideas about social interaction. Unfortunately the main ideas are scattered around: p. 147-148, 151 (starting with Idealization) -152
4. In the section on gender & personal performances, what does the research suggest about the role of gender & power in social interaction?
5. How does the way we talk about gender influence our perception of reality & our interactions with others?
6. What are the functions of humor? How does humor reflect social conflict?

Chapter 7 - Groups & Organizations

1. What is a group? How is it different from a “group” of strangers waiting together for a bus?
2. Primary & secondary groups?
3. Be familiar with the research findings on conformity, reference groups, and in-groups & out-groups. (classic studies, all replicated by subsequent research)
4. Understand the four basic processes described in the section social diversity (pp. 169-170).
5. How are networks different from groups? Why are they important?
6. What are formal organizations? How are they different from informal groups?
7. What are the characteristics of a bureaucracy? Not coincidentally, bureaucratic organization first became common the West during the industrial revolution. How does the rise of bureaucracies reflect the trend that Weber called the rationalization of society?
8. What is the informal system within the formal system of a bureaucracy? Why is it important to understand the informal system?
9. What are the common problems with bureaucratic organizations, including the “iron law of oligarchy”?
10. How have formal organizations changed in response to challenges over race & gender?
11. How do Japanese work organizations differ from typical formal organizations in the U.S.?
12. How have formal organizations been influenced by the shift from and industrial to information-based economy?
13. What is the McDonaldization of society? What would Weber have to say about this?

LECTURES

Culture

1. What is culture? Basic ideas: material & nonmaterial culture, norms (folkways & mores), values, roles, ethnocentrism, culture shock, cultural relativism
2. What is the gist of the nature-nurture debate?
3. What is biological determinism? When & why did it become popular?
4. What is cultural determinism? When & why did it become popular?
5. Know what Mead found in her New Guinea study, as well as the conclusions she drew.
6. On what basis has Mead’s research been criticized?
7. What do the Vietnam Veterans study and the research on guevedoces suggest about the basis of gender

differences?

8. Other terms: tabula rasa, cross-cultural research, ethnography

Subcultures

1. What is a subculture? What factors facilitate the formation of a subculture? How is a counterculture different from an ordinary subculture?
2. How do swingers illustrate a subculture?
3. What societal conditions led to the popularity of swinging during the 1970s?
4. How would a functionalist explain the distinctive norms of this subculture?
5. What's the difference between explicit & implicit norms? Real & ideal norms?
6. What is the argot of a subculture? Why is it important?

Love Family as a small society

1. What is a society? How is it different from culture?
2. What is a utopian society?
3. What are the different aspects of nonmaterial culture?
4. Was there a gap between the community's real & ideal culture?
5. What are group boundaries? How was the boundary maintained in the Love Family?
6. What are the three types of leadership? What kind is Love Israel?
7. What is social structure? Was this a stratified structure? Was social mobility possible?

Functionalism

1. How does the organic analogy illustrate this perspective?
2. Know the basic terms: social system, function, dysfunction, functional prerequisite for survival
3. What is member commitment and why is it a functional prerequisite for the survival of a utopian community?
4. How does Rosabeth Kanter's study illustrate the functionalist perspective?
5. What are the commitment-building mechanisms that I covered in class? How do they work?

Socialization

1. What is socialization? Why is effective socialization necessary for a society to exist in its present form?
2. How did Lieberman study the effects of occupational socialization? What did he find and what conclusions did he draw?
3. How did Toch investigate the effects of police socialization on perception, and what conclusions did he draw?
4. How do both Toch's study and the gorilla study illustrate selective attention?
4. One problem with studies of occupational socialization is that it's often hard to distinguish the effects of socialization from selection effects. What does this mean?

Social interaction

1. What is the symbolic interactionist perspective?
2. How is symbolic interactionism different from the deterministic theories that used to dominate the social sciences?
3. Why is the definition of the situation a key concept in symbolic interactionism.
4. How does David Rosenhan's study illustrate the power of the definition of the situation to influence social perception?
5. What is a self-fulfilling prophecy? How does it illustrate symbolic interaction?
6. How are self-fulfilling prophecies related to deviance amplification?
7. I'm not sure yet which example I will use to illustrate self-fulfilling prophecies, but you should

understand how the study was done and what the results were.

Conformity (this is tentative)

1. What did the Sherif's do in their Robber's Cave experiment? Do you think this study could be done today?
2. What did the Sherif's find about group intergroup conflict, group solidarity & conformity?
3. What is groupthink? How does it work?
4. What role do communication norms play in groupthink? (horizontal, vertical, & cross-boundary communication)