

Principals of Sociology

September 3, 2008

Every Thursday (starting next week), the extra credit movies will be shown at 5:30pm and 7:00pm. Turn in 1-2 pgs typed (size 12 font, double spaced) on what was important to you about the movie. Either good or bad.

Last hour of class: "The Witchdoctor's New Bride" (film)

Lecture:

Divination: the reading of entrails

Symbolism: left/right up/down forward/backward

Proxemics: the use of social space, can be symbolic and scientific study of special dynamics.

Properties of Symbols:

1. Multivocality=many voices-any symbol can represent more than one meaning. Ex. Red=anger, hot, danger, stop, fire, communists/republicans, joy (Christmas), death and life, finances (in the red).
2. Unification of opposition=something with more than one meaning. Ex. Red=life or death
3. Arbitrariness=no connection between the symbol and what it represents. ie. No rhyme or reason to the assignment of a symbol, it's just accepted by the populous.
4. Condensation=one symbol represents the totality of existence. ie. a symbol that is widely accepted and works for everyone. Ex. circle can represent unity or wholeness. OM=AUM represents all symbols and sounds, everything in existence. the infinity symbol time-in terms of time, represents everything. ying and yang symbol, mostly associated with Taoism can refer to all of existence-everything contains a seat in its opposite. Within the state of comfort is the opposition of discomfort.

Religion and Discrimination:

Sex selective abortion-aborting a fetus based on the sex. Ex. China has in excess of 30million males because of sex selective abortion.

Patrilineal lineage-father passes the bloodlines through the males; if no males are born to the family then the bloodline dies.

Some cultures mandate that you use the right instead of the left side of your body.

Right=virtuous, strong/active, sacred, light, male, up, forward, clean

Left=evil, weak, witchcraft, profane/ordinary, dark, female, down.

When referring to someone's success, we say they are moving up the ladder not down. People with more influence and power tend to be at the front of the line, not the back. We get up in the morning, not down. Richer people are associated with upper-class.

Qualitative sociology-subjective data

Macro sociology-larger study, larger groups.

Quantitative sociology-objective data, things you can weigh, count, or measure.

Micro sociology-smaller study, smaller groups.

Last hour of class-watched "The Witchdoctors New Bride"