

CHAPTER 6: GROUPS AND FORMAL ORGANIZATIONS

Culture and Social Structures - members of a group:

1. are in regular contact with one another
2. share some ways of thinking, feeling and behaving
3. take one another's behavior into account
4. have one or more interests or goals in common

social category - people who share a social characteristic (e.g., citizens of the U.S.)

social aggregate - people temporarily at the same place at the same time (e.g., witnesses of a disaster)

primary group - people who are emotionally close, know each other well, seek one another's company

primary relationships - interactions that are intimate, caring, personal and fulfilling

primary groups -> conditions:

1. small in size
2. face-to-face contact
3. continuous contact
4. proper social environment

primary groups-> functions:

1. emotional support
2. socialization
3. encourage conformity

secondary group - people who share only part of their lives while focusing on a goal or task

secondary relationships - impersonal interactions involving limited parts of personalities

Other Groups and Networks

reference groups - groups used for self-evaluation and the formation of attitudes, values, beliefs and norms

in-groups - exclusive groups demanding intense loyalty

out-groups - groups targeted by an in-group for opposition, antagonism or competition

social network - web of social relationships that join a person to other people and groups

Types of Social Interaction

cooperation - interaction in which individuals or groups combine their efforts to reach a goal

conflict - interaction aimed at defeating an opponent

- positive effects: 1. promotion of cooperation and unity within opposing groups (Revolutionary War brought colonists together) 2. attention drawn to social inequalities (civil rights movement)

social exchange - voluntary action performed in the expectation of getting a reward in return ("I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine.")

- cooperation -> "How can we reach our goal?"
- social exchange -> "What's in it for **me**?"

coercion - individuals or groups are forced to behave in a particular way (e.g., enforced curfew) - done through physical force or social pressure

conformity - behavior that matches group expectations

groupthink - self-deceptive thinking that's based on conformity to group beliefs and created by group pressure to conform

Formal Organizations - groups deliberately created to achieve one or more long-term goals (high schools, govt. agencies)

bureaucracy - formal organization based on rationality and efficiency

- major characteristics of bureaucracies:

1. a division of labor based on the principle of specialization
2. a hierarchy of authority
3. a system of rules and procedures
4. written records of work and activities
5. promotion on the basis of merit and qualifications

power - ability to control the behavior of others

authority - legitimate or social approved use of power

rationalization - mind-set emphasizing knowledge, reason, and planning

informal organization - group within a formal organization that's guided by norms, rituals, sentiments that aren't apparent in the formal organization

iron law of oligarchy - theory that power increasingly becomes concentrated in the hands of a few members of any organization

SOCIOLOGY
CHAPTER 6: GROUPS & FORMAL ORGANIZATIONS
VIDEO QUESTIONS - *Hitler's Youth: Seduction*

1. _____ was the abbreviation for the League of German Girls.
2. Adolf Hitler saw women first and foremost as _____.
3. According to Hitler, what was the main task of women?
4. What was the compulsory (mandatory) subject taught to Hitler Youth?
5. What happened to girls who became pregnant before marriage?
6. What award was given to women who'd had four births?
7. When civil servants became soldiers, what did girls become?
8. Over three million girls worked in which industries?
9. How many girls wore Wehrmacht (German armed forces) uniforms?
10. What was the name of the anti-Nazi group formed by Sophie Scholl?

What happened to her?

SOCIOLOGY
VIDEO QUESTIONS: “Breaking Point”

1. In 1994, what law was passed by California voters?
2. Which state has the nation’s highest recidivism rate?
3. How many inmates is the CA state prison system designed to hold?
How many prisoners are currently incarcerated in CA?
4. How much does it cost the state each year to house a single inmate?
5. Which nation has the most people in jail or prison?
6. What’s the first thing that prison staff check when new inmates arrive?
7. What percentage of CA prisoners are in vocational or educational programs?
8. In five years, will CA spend more on prisons or on public colleges and universities?
9. How much will it cost CA to incarcerate Travis Tippetts for 25 years?
10. What determines where prisoners sit during mealtime?
11. What evidence of drug trafficking was found in the search of the inmate’s cell?
12. What piece of technology is essential for the survival of the prison drug trade?
13. Who brings these devices to inmates?
14. How many times has Bryan O’Neal been in prison?

15. How much “gate money” is typically given to parolees?
16. What types of prisoners are clogging the prison system?
17. What happened to Bryan O’Neal within weeks after his release?
18. What percentage of Solano prisoners earned a GED on Graduation Day?
19. Name two vocational training programs at Solano.
20. What percentage of Solano prisoners is enrolled in one of these training programs?
21. What job did Travis Tippets get after leaving prison?
How long did he have the job?
22. What change will take place in the CA prison system in January 2008?
23. According to Marc Klaas, what approach should be taken to reduce prison overcrowding?