CHAPTER 6: GROUPS AND FORMAL ORGANIZATIONS

Culture and Social Structures - members of a <u>group</u>:

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

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

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

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

<u>primary relationships</u> - 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

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

<u>secondary relationships</u> - impersonal interactions involving limited parts of personalities

Nov 5-11:35 AM

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

Nov 5-11:37 AM

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

Nov 5-11:37 AM