

SECOND EDITION

Sociology in Praxis

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Chapter 4

Socialization



Section 1

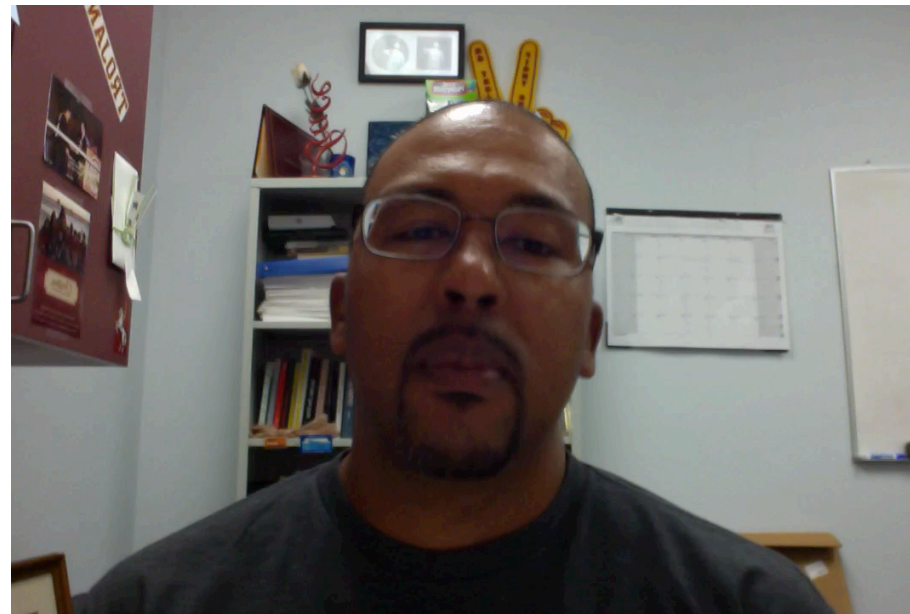
The Role of Socialization

At the heart of sociology is the understanding that we undergo **socialization**, which is the lifelong process through which people acquire the attitudes, values, and behaviors appropriate for members of a particular culture. For example, every society has a different definition of what “stinks.” In the US, people are expected to take at least one shower a day and use deodorant, antiperspirant, perfume, cologne, body spray, lotion, scented oil, etc. to make us NOT smell like our natural body odor. However, in a nation like France, it is culturally acceptable to take a shower less than once a day and to smell like your natural self. As a matter of fact, people in France believe that individuals in the

United States smell bad because we are “sterilized” or smell like “hospitals,” while we think that the French stink because they smell like body odor. (Watch Movie 1.1)

Not only do we learn our culture, but through this process, we also develop our sense of **self**, which is a distinct identity that distinguishes each individual from others and gives us a unique sense of who we are. We acquire this distinctiveness when we interrelate with the **significant others**, people most important in the development of the self, who are in our lives. Our **social interactions**, which refer to how people behave toward one another when they meet and determine our experiences,

Movie 1.1 Does cow dung smell “bad”?



1. <https://youtu.be/OvTR7L1I9xM> - Video
2. *What is the main point of this video?*
3. *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
4. *Can you think of any other examples of things that smell good/bad to you but could be different in another context? Explain.*

memories, values, and beliefs; lay down the foundation for our identity and help us become functioning members of society.

If it is understood that our self is created, then it should not be a surprise that sociologists also believe in the **social construction of reality**, that our perception of reality is shaped by the subjective meanings we bring to any experience and is also purposefully structured by people in power in a given society. In other words, we are not just taught objective facts about the world; we are taught *how* to see the world.

An example of how we are taught “objective” facts can be demonstrated by our understandings of the rainbow. Traditionally in the United States, we are taught that there are seven colors in the rainbow. The only reason I remember this is because of the song we sang in class when I was in kindergarten: red and yellow and pink and green, purple and orange and blue, I can sing a rainbow.... And if you switch purple with indigo and pink with violet you would have the traditional list of colors in the US rainbow. However, what if I told you that historically it had been argued that the rainbow only had one color (purple) or three colors (red, yellowish-green and blue)? Also, in China, they omit the distinction between indigo and violet and just call it *zi se* (purple). So then what is the real answer? The colors of the rainbow are INFINITE! We are taught a certain number because humans have a limited capacity to discern them. (*Watch Movies 1.2 and 1.3*)

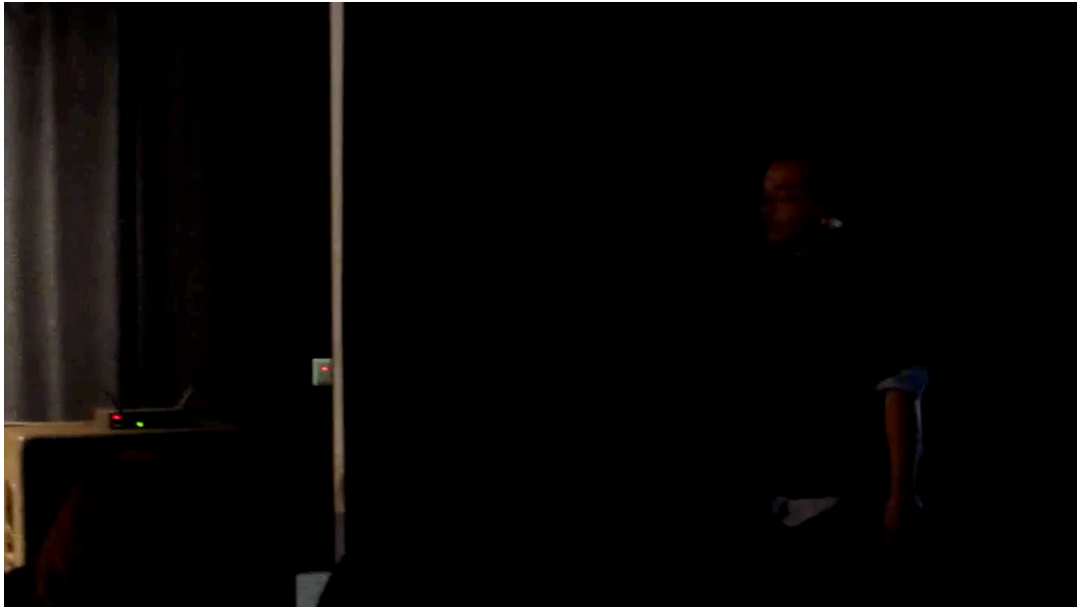
Movie 1.2 Symbolism of the Rainbow



1. <https://youtu.be/iwliyexg5w4> - Video
2. *What is the main point of this video?*
3. *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
4. *Can you think of any other examples of symbols that have multiple meanings? Explain.*

Movie 1.3 Poetry in Praxis

Click by Joe Limer



- 1) [https://youtu.be/ iMld13Acv8](https://youtu.be/iMld13Acv8) - Video
- 2) *What is this poem about?*
- 3) *What would the poet say is most responsible for constructing our reality? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Is this a problem? If so, does the poet propose a solution? Do you have a solution? Explain.*

Section 2

Sociological Approaches to the Self

Sociologists are interested in what we learn and how we learn it from the people around us.

Social learning theory is concerned with the ways children model the behaviors they view in others. Children usually learn by random modeling of behaviors and mimicking sounds that they hear around them. However, the socialization process strengthens preferred sociocultural patterns in children's behavior while reducing or eliminating others. One way that we do this is by teaching children **schemas**; the cognitive structures used to understand the world and process information. (Watch Movie 1.4)

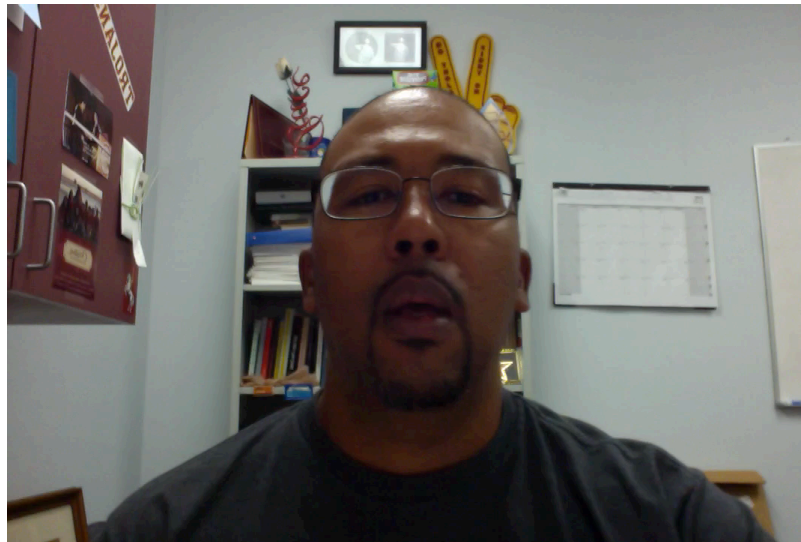
An example of this can be found in the movie, *The Gods Must Be*

Crazy when a Coca Cola bottle fell from the sky and a Bushmen, people who live an isolated hunter/gatherer lifestyle in the Kalahari Desert, finds it and tries to figure out what it is. Individuals in the US would typically interpret such a thing as trash or hopefully something to be recycled, but this group of people used the item as a rolling pin, a club, a musical instrument and unfortunately even a weapon. (View video)

Another example is when you try to interpret the drawings of a three-year-old child. The child presents you with a picture that you cannot easily understand, so you use your schemas to try and figure it out. You see green and brown, and your schema

Movie 1.4 The Schema of Race

Huffington Post June 6, 2016



1. <https://youtu.be/4JWO6XuWxSE> - Video
2. *What is the main point of this video?*
3. *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
4. *Can you think of any other examples of how a person's race could affect how they experience the world? Explain.*

suggests that it is a tree. But when the child says it is not a tree it is an elephant then you may suggest to the child to use some gray so that it looks more like an elephant. But when they say it is an elephant in a tree then you know that they are not aware that elephants do not climb trees and that is why it was so hard for you to guess what the child drew.

Gender schema theory suggests that once a child learns cultural definitions of gender, these schemas become the core around which all other information is organized. Children learn early on to associate darker colors with boys and bright colors, but especially pink, with girls. If you go into a toy store, you will immediately know where the girl toys are because the entire aisle will be pink with white and purple highlights, while the boy aisle will be filled with darker colors (black, dark green and blue) with yellow and red highlights. This affiliation with girls and pink is so strong that even when children enter middle and high school, they will socially reinforce this by making

clothes that profess how much they love pink and thinking that boys that like this color must be homosexual. (*Watch Movie 1.5*)

Stages of the Self

Another theory that explains how we learn as children is George Herbert Meads' stages of self. He proposes that children go through three distinct stages of development:

1) **The Preparatory Stage** is where children start to imitate the people around them. Children copy the behavior and mannerisms of their parents and siblings. If your mother puts her hands on her hips when she is angry the kids will duplicate that behavior when they are told that they have to go to bed. If the father is cooking, then one of the children may come beside him and try to chop vegetables next to

him. Most of the time you notice that children imitate the people around them when they do something socially unacceptable. If a child cusses after their character dies in a video game, this is

Movie 1.5 Transgender Bathrooms

CNN July 9, 2016



1. <https://youtu.be/-4KvPtfSnsu> - Video
2. *What is the main point of this video?*
3. *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
4. *Can you think of any other examples of how a person's sex could affect how they experience the world? Explain.*

probably something that they learned from someone older that plays video games with them.

2) **The Play Stage** is where children have developed some skill in communicating and start to understand social roles. At this stage, young kids begin **role taking**, which is the process of mentally assuming the perspective of another and responding from that imagined viewpoint. This stage is where they play games like cops and robbers, house and doctor. (View video)

3) **The Game Stage** occurs at about 8 or 9 years old and marks the time where children learn that they are a part of a larger social situation. In other words, they find out that they are not the center of the universe. This stage is where children begin to employ the concept of the **generalized other**, which refers to the attitudes, viewpoints, and expectations of society as a whole that a child takes into account in his or her behavior. What this means

is that children learn that there are social expectations that are associated with each role that they play. In the play stage, children are allowed to play roles spontaneously. If the girl wants to play the family dog, then that is fine. But in the game stage

impulsive role taking is no longer acceptable. If you want to play house, the girl cannot play the dog, or the boy cannot be the mother. If you play doctor, then children may realize that the girl should be the nurse and the boy the doctor because that is what they see when they go to the doctor's office. (Watch Movie 1.6)

Movie 1.6 Being IT



1) <https://youtu.be/X7F6eXuPLog> - Video

2) *What is the main point the author is making?*

3) *How do you learn how to be "it"?*

4) *What is socially significant about this role? Why does almost every child learn how to be "it" in one manner or another?*

Looking-Glass Self

The theory that best represents the sociological perspective of the self was proposed by Charles Horton Cooley called the **looking-glass self**, which is the idea that we imagine how others see us and we imagine their judgment of that appearance. This approach

suggests that your self-concept is a product of your social interactions with others and is broken down into three key

phases: (1) we imagine how we present ourselves to others; (2) we imagine how others evaluate us; and (3) we define our self as a result of these impressions. In other words, the image we create of ourselves is primarily based on our perception of how others perceive us. (*Watch Movie 1.7*)

Everyone has gone through the process of getting dressed in the morning. When you do this, you consider what you will be doing that day, e.g. going to school, going to play basketball, going to a party. All of these situations suggest a different style of dress, but what else are you considering when you are getting ready? Most of us will also examine what other people will think about what we are wearing. Is it pretty? Is it dope? Is it brutal? These concepts are dependent on what other people think. This thought process represents stage one of the looking-glass self; the idea that you think you look good to others.

However, the moment you step out of your bedroom or the dressing room at a department store, you will try and assess what other people think about how you are dressed. Do they compliment you, “That shirt is DOPE son! Where did you get it?”

Do they say something negative, “What is the deal with your shirt?” Do they look at you and negative shake their head? Do they look at you and smile? Or do they say nothing at all? Some of our parents have directly told us to go back to our rooms and “try again.” Assessing people’s reaction to how you are dressed is step two of the process because we want to know what they think about us. In other words, you do not know what the other person may think about how you look. Even if someone tells you that you look “good,” they may believe that you look bad but are in a hurry to get to where they want to go. Also, your parents

saying that you look “bad” may mean that your friends will think you look “good.” After you consider all of these interactions and have received positive reinforcement from enough people, you

Movie 1.7 Poetry in Praxis

My Honest Poem by Rudy Francisco



1. https://youtu.be/5NI_09j539c - Video
2. *What is the poem about?*
3. *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*
4. *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*
5. *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

will go to step three; I know I look good. Being able to assess how others think of you correctly is vital to your development of self. However, there are times when you could be looking through a cracked looking glass. Take anorexia for instance. The person with this illness believes they are fat no matter how much they weigh. When people react negatively to their radical weight loss, rather than thinking they have gone too far, they believe that people believe that they are still fat.



Section 3

Socialization throughout Life

Socialization does not stop once you become an adult. The **life course approach** looks closely at the social factors, including gender, race and income; that influence people throughout their entire lives. There are times when we undergo **anticipatory socialization** where a person rehearses for future positions, occupations, and social relationships. Rehearsing is most evident when it comes to preparing for a job interview. We will work hard on our **impression management**, when people purposefully try to influence how others perceive them, by dressing in a proper manner, speak without cussing or saying “um” and “you know” all the time, give a firm handshake, smile and if it is a career-level job you will want to practice answering questions that may come up during the interview. However, many people experience the same process when going on a first date, meeting your significant other’s parents, your first day at a new school or if you are trying out for the cheerleading squad.

There are also times in our lives when we may need to undergo a process of **resocialization**, which refers to the process of discarding old behavior patterns and accepting new ones as part

of a life transition. (View poem) Prison and Rehabilitation centers of any type, i.e. drugs, alcohol, gambling, etc., are two social institutions whose primary function is resocialization. Another institution that often engages in this role is community colleges. Often this is a space where people who are first-generation college students or students that did not do well in the K-12 system have to relearn how to manage their time, take notes and study.

Movie 1.8 Poetry in Praxis

Waking Up Naked by Michael Lee

button
poetry

1) https://youtu.be/YAy-R_QRyvU - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

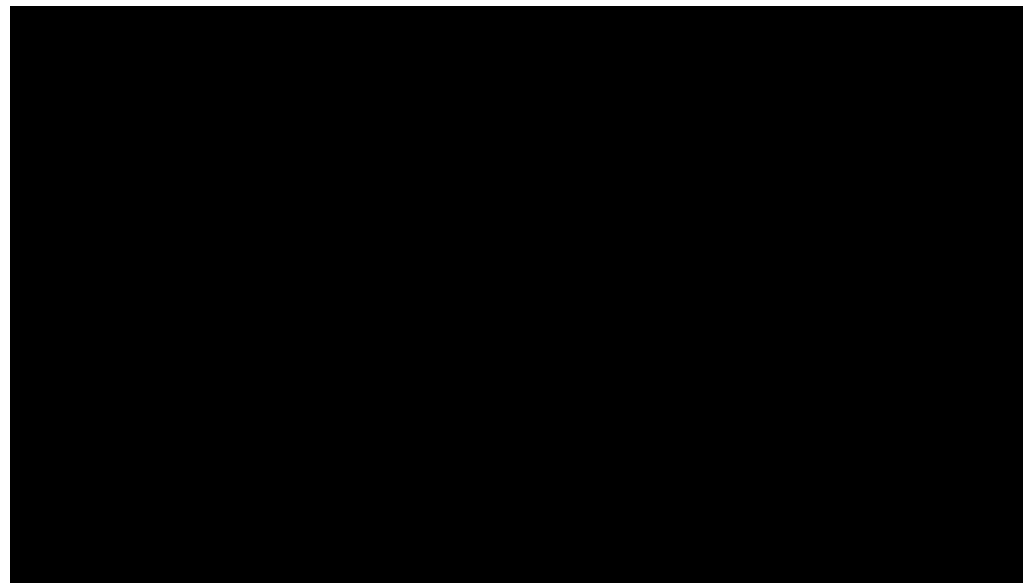
4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Researchers that take the life course approach also investigate the significance of **rites of passage**, which are symbolic representations of significant transitions that serve as a means of dramatizing and validating changes in a person's status. (View poem) The state sets many of these rites. At five years old, we become independent learners and are required to go to school. Age 16 marks the age of independence if you earn your driver's license. We become adults at the age of 18, and numerous ceremonies accompany this transition from adolescent to young adult. Many of us graduate high school at about this age, but we are also allowed to vote, we must sign up for the draft and we will be tried as an adult if we are suspected of committing a crime. Then we have to wait another three years to buy alcohol and cigarettes at 21. However, in Japan, their coming of age is at 20 where they celebrate Seiji-no-hi and are then allowed to participate fully in society. (Watch Movie 1.9)

Movie 1.9 Poetry in Praxis

Tampon Poem by Sierra DeMulder



1) <https://youtu.be/dJeSo1JEwJs> - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Religion plays a significant role in rites of passage also. Boys of the Jewish faith have a Bar Mitzvah at the age of 13, while girls have a Bat Mitzvah at the age of 12 to symbolize them becoming adults. Jewish, Catholic and some Protestant faiths have

Confirmation, which represents the "age of reason" where a young adult is expected to decide for themselves to follow God. And in many Latin American cultures girls at the age of 15 enter womanhood and have a quinceanera, fiesta de quince or a very similarly named ceremony; which normally has religious overtones.

How Are We Socialized?

As sociologists, we realize that in our lives there are many agents of socialization who are represented by the people, groups, and social institutions that provide the critical information needed for children to become fully

functioning members of society.

- **Family** is the most important agent of socialization, especially for children. They introduce **cultural capital**, which is the ability to access particular groups because of cultural similarity (more on this in Chapter 7). The bestowing of ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status is part of this process.

- **School** teaches us the taken-for-granted knowledge of the broader society. We learn our history, our culture and our rules through the education system. School also marks the time when we begin to be judged on what we do rather than who we are. In other words, if we fail the tests then we will fail the class.

- **Peer Groups** are usually made up of people who are the same age and share the same interests and positions. Children in the third grade start to identify with particular groups, but peer groups usually become more important in our socialization than our family by middle school.

This group determines what is “pretty,” “dope,” “brutal,” etc. and parents have little control over these definitions.

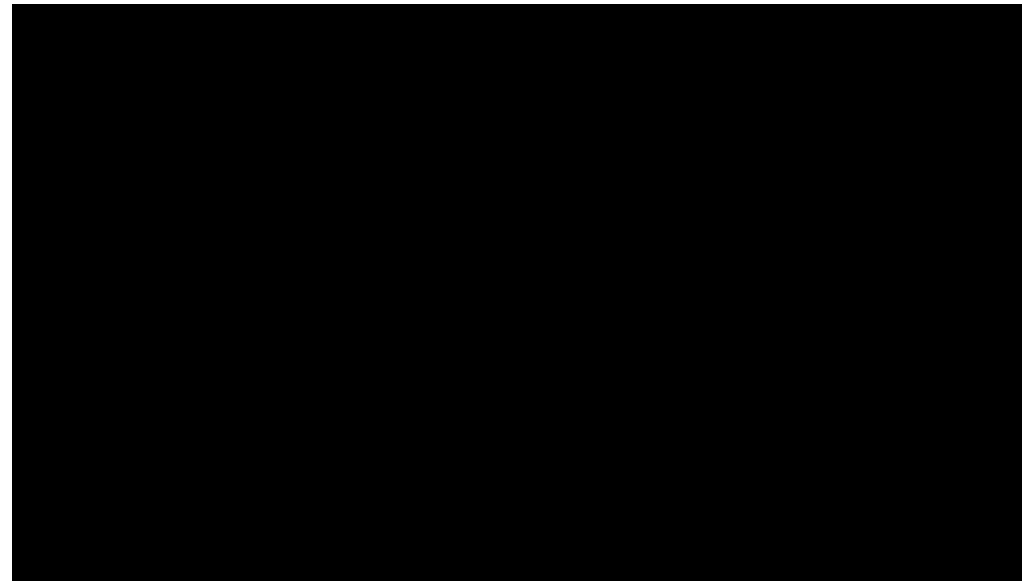
- **Mass Media and Technology** has significantly affected how we are socialized because of how much time is spent interacting with technology. Unlike education, the media is much more subtle in the socialization process. Media does not tell you what a family is; it just creates shows with families in them and the viewer processes these images as normal and acceptable. TV is by far the most influential media source. However, the Internet and movies are becoming more important as people of lower socioeconomic

statuses gain the same access as the middle-class. (*Watch Movie 1.10*)

- **The Workplace** teaches us how to behave appropriately in an occupational setting and is a fundamental aspect of

Movie 1.10 Poetry in Praxis

Pretty Girl by the Professor



1. <https://youtu.be/kL28x7qlwh4> - Video

2. *What is the poem about?*

3. *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4. *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5. *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

socialization in most countries. We learn the value of our work, but more importantly, we find out how our wages directly affect our status in a given society. Generally speaking, the higher your income, the higher your status.

- **Religion and the State** both act to provide markers representing significant life course transitions. These two institutions frequently create the motivation behind many of our rites of passage.

Chapter Summary

Chapter Vocabulary ***parentheses indicate page number***

Socialization (2)

Self (2)

Significant Others (2)

Social Interactions (2)

Social Construction of Reality (3)

Social Learning Theory (5)

Schemas (5)

Gender Schema Theory (5)

Preparatory Stage (6)

Play Stage (6)

Role Taking (6)

Game Stage (7)

Generalized Other (7)

Looking-Glass Self (7)

Life Course Approach (9)

Anticipatory Socialization (9)

Impression Management (9)

Resocialization (9)

Rites of Passage (9)

Cultural Capital (10)

Key Terms ***need to illustrate concept with an example***

Social Construction of Reality

Schemas

Gender Schema Theory

Role Taking

Generalized Other

Looking-Glass Self

Rites of Passage

Bullet-point answer questions:

- What are the three stages of the self?
- Name three common rites of passage.
- Name two institutions that focus on the resocialization process.
- Name three situations that you would use the concept of anticipatory socialization.

- What are the six agents of socialization?

Short answer questions:

- Define the social construction of reality and give a specific example of this concept.
- What is the difference between anticipatory socialization and resocialization and give an example of both?
- What is the difference between role taking and generalized other and give an example of both?
- Define schemas and give an example of how you use them to interpret situations.

Critical thinking questions:

- Define the sociological imagination and explain how your looking glass self can be affected by wider social factors.

Transcripts

Movie 1.1 Does cow dung smell “bad”?

So what do you think of the smell of cow dung? Most of us probably don't think of it in a very pleasant way. I remember when I was doing an internship, during the summer, at University California Davis, and one of the bigger programs that they have is a veterinary school, and so there was the smell of animals around, namely: cow dung. And I just remember, I mean remember this is also the summer, and just remember the aroma hitting me and just not thinking of it in a very pleasant way. However, what I want you to really think about that us as sociologists would argue that what we think of as smelling good and smelling bad, is actually talk to us through the socialization process. That there is no natural thing that you think smells good or smells bad. We have to get taught what smells good and what smells bad because here's the deal, is that there is other communities and cultures that actually use cow dung as building material. Now I don't know if they're using it as material for bricks or mortar, but I'm assuming that on a rainy day that you know the smell of cow dung becomes more profuse and so they probably don't think of it as stinking, as what we might. Another

space in other cultures, they actually use cow dung in the same way that we would use charcoal to cook food. Now that really trips me out because you think about that, if anybody who barbecues, they know that charcoal leaves a distinct flavor in meat versus let's say a gas grill, right? And that there's a lot of people that spend a lot of time, energy, and effort in order to smoke their meat with something like Hickory, or Applewood, or Mesquite, because we know that it takes, that it gives a lot of distinct flavors to the meat. And so you have to understand then that people who use cow dung are probably thinking that cow dung leaves a good taste in meat, and that really trips me out. And so like I said, as a sociologist, what we have to understand also then, is that if you were raised in that society, most likely you would think the same way.

Movie 1.2 Symbolism of the Rainbow

So one example of how we socially constructed reality is the thing about all the different representations that we have for this thing that we call a rainbow right now scientifically speaking you know rainbow is like the reflection and refraction of light as it goes through water droplets however rainbows have a lot of

religious meaning in Norse mythology the rainbow was actually like a bridge between us and some heavenly realm right with Buddhist they believe that the rainbow was like the highest state that you could achieve before attaining Nirvana while with Christians they believe that the rainbow if you believe in a literal interpretation of the bible that the rainbow represents God's covenant to the people that he wouldn't destroy the world again with a great flood right now those are you know past interpretations and even some current interpretation of the rainbow but more contemporary understanding a rainbow is how it's become almost synonymous with the queer community and that rainbows in the queer community is a symbol of peace and unity right and this symbolism has become so prevalent that the University of Hawaii of whose mascot is the rainbow warriors they have taken considerable social pressure to try to change their names from the rainbow warriors to just the Warriors of the people who have critiqued their name said that it was going to be harder to crew recruit athletes of for more masculine sports like football or baseball because of the connotations of the rainbow however the University of Hawaii stood its ground and kept their mascot there for all of this is just a save that's even something as relatively simple as the rainbow can demonstrate how we socially construct our realities.

Movie 1.3 Poetry in Praxis

Click by Joe Limer

Click. We interrupt this program to bring you a special announcement. Now you, yes you can be successful in life. You can have the perfect American life with 2.4 kids, a dog, and a white picket fence as long as you're powered by Viagra, Cialis, Extendz, or Depends on your 90lbs. desperate housewife with surgical enhancements living in a four closed space that you call home. Roaming around in brake-less Toyota that moves faster than your 5 hour energy buzz because in this commercial program, YOU are being programmed to act. So please, act now. Operators are standing by. By the way side effects can increase political alienation, ideological migraines from your brain, exploding as a spick dis-prone to streams of consciousness, flowing rhymes without reason, an intellectual wet dreams caution. Some of you may experience what we professors call the light bulb effect. In which case don't resist it! It's called critical thought. See i thought we were fully rational individuals, but we tend to reason rationality and the simplistic UPS whiteboards and clips on Youtube, fusing your problems into 30 second solutions. The confusion with media lies in a specialized form of education, a form of indoctrination, a fabrication of the superstructure, these superstructures built on sand handing out stratified syllogism, idealism's without political realism's. See we can't connect the schisms so we don't have new thoughts or challenges; we have

damages to the brain, a type of brain damage. Brain damaged by Glenn Beck with these Olbermann lobotomies, illustrating dichotomies, showing polar points of view. Just two bi-polar virtues, polarizing ideas and buying truths, so that these truths become shells of their former self, so instead we delve more into un-truth, than truth, but the truth is, that's the hook. I mean i didn't mean to get you shook, but we have socialization in Marx mark, and repetitious actions. These factions didn't mean you to react without thought so you begin to socialize instinctually. These voices in your head, bandaged with adages like "Just say no!" Well say no to what? "If you're not with us, you're against us", "Love it or leave it", it amounts to this endless type of pattern. If you think you know ask yourself exactly what you know because knowing is half the battle, so while you're saddled with Presidential candidates wanting to camp in on change...maybe you need to do more than just change the channel, and now back to our regular scheduled program. Click.

Movie 1.4 The Schema of Race

So a pew research study found something that is probably not very surprising to most of us and that is that of the views of black people and white people are profoundly different when it comes to viewing racial inequalities in the united states now this research involved over 3,700 people and 1799 identified as white 1004 identified as black and about 654 identified as hispanic and what the research found was that about forty three percent of black

people were skeptical that changes were gonna happen to make race relations better in the united states only eleven percent of white people felt the same way I'm thirty-eight percent of whites believe that the country had already made all the accommodations it needed to make the black people in order to help them become equal to whites only eight percent of black people felt the same way about that another one would be that thirty two percent of why people believe that Obama actually made race relations worse in the United States versus nine percent of blacks would say the same thing and perhaps maybe one of the biggest discrepancies percentage-wise was that 71 percent of black people said that they have been discriminated against based on their race while only thirty percent of white people felt the same way now as the research continued to unfold what we also find out is that of the median income for a black households was about thirty thousand dollars less than the average or excuse me the median income for a white households and that black people black families were twice as likely the white families to be living in poverty however when we talk about the reasons why this discrepancy exists seventy percent of black people suggested that racial discrimination was a big critical societal factors that play into the discrepancy only thirty-six percent of white people felt the same way so what does this tell us with his tell us is that surely then that their categories that we are the racial categories that were put into by society definitely lead us to experience the world very differently and to interpret it very differently.

Movie 1.5 Transgender Bathrooms

So on July 9th 2016 Massachusetts passes a transgender rights bill that has now become law and so this law allows transgender people to use public restrooms and locker rooms that are consistent with their gender identity versus their sex that's identified on their birth certificate now look there's a lot of pushback on this some of it if not all of it is happening on a conservative side but the main argument is that against is that this is a public safety issue that we have these quote men that are going into these women's bathrooms and that so we're increasing the probability that children will be molested on it were increasing the probability of the sexual assault of women now look I'm not going to say anything about this being right or wrong but what I can say that as a sociologist are part of the problem is that of our gender schema and how in the United States we have a gender schema that only gives us really two options on our gender and then also then rigidly connects those genders to male and female bodies now look one of the ways that we can add and that this fight that we're having is actually stopping us from seeing a rather simple solution to this and that is to have increase more single-user bathrooms are not only would this help with transgender issues but it would also be an equity move for a lot of women of who stand at times impossibly long lines in order to use the bathrooms especially like sporting events or nightclubs while men a lot of times we don't even have to stand in line at all of these same spaces and so if our society continues to move towards the

gender identity has more fluid we surely can expect to see are more accommodations and more exploration of how this would work better in our society.

Movie 1.6 Being IT

So when talking about socialization, have you ever played the game Tag? Or something like that? Do you understand that you had to learn how to be "It", right? Now I know, it just seems like it came naturally to you, but if you would ever watch little kids play Tag or any rendition of that, right. It's like Hide and Go Seek is a version of you being "it", right? Even Marco Polo or something like that, you're being "it", and the idea that's going along here is that you have to get socialized into playing these games, and so then what does being "it" mean? What do you have to do to be "it"? One, you have to learn how to chase other people. Part of this is physical exercise, but also the second part of this, which is probably the most important part of this is that you have to learn that you don't want to be "it", right? Just imagine how that game would go, like if you were playing tag, and you were just fine with just being "it" right, its like, someone would Tag you and like "You're it", and it's like "Cool man, I'm it..." right? That's not going to work for the game anyway and life, now think about that. What are we teaching people when we think about that, that you don't want to be "it" in life, you don't want to be the outcast in life, right? And then lastly, this is the one that's kind of weird especially in our society, is that we'll also develop rules as to how

to be fair about who's "it" and who's not, right? And so then if you got the kid like me, I was the kid that always ran slow, and so people would Tag me and I would be "it", but I couldn't catch anybody else. But then there was a certain moment where everyone was like, you know what, Bruce can't be it anymore because we're all just running away from him and he's been "it" for like half an hour now and he's tired, right? And so you learn these rules about being fair and how we apply these labels in our society and that's part of our socialization process.

Movie 1.7 Poetry in Praxis

My Honest Poem by Rudy Francisco

I was born on July 27th, that makes me a Leo I don't really know what that means I'm 5 foot 6... I weigh a hundred and forty-five pounds I don't know how to swim, and I'm a sucker for a girl with a nice smile And clean sneakers I'm still learning how to whisper I'm often loud in places where I should be quiet I'm often quiet in places where I should be loud I was born feet first and I've been backwards ever since I like ginger ale... a lot. I've been told that I give really bad hugs People say that it feels like I'm trying to escape Sometimes it's because I am, and secretly I get really nervous Every time someone gets close enough to hear me breathe I have this odd fascination with things like sand castles and ice sculptures I assume it's because I usually find myself dedicating time to things That will only last a few moments That's also why I tend to fall in love with women Who would never love

me back I know it sounds crazy, but it's actually much easier than it seems And to be honest, I think it's safer that way See relationships, they often remind me that I'm not afraid of heights or falling But I'm scared of what's gonna happen The moment that my body hits the ground I'm clumsy. Yesterday, I tripped over my self-esteem I landed on my pride and it shattered like an iPhone with a broken face Now I can't even tell who's trying to give me a compliment I've never been in the military, but I have this Purple Heart I got it from beating myself up over things I can't fix I know it sounds weird but sometimes, I wonder what my bed sheets say about me when I'm not around I wonder what the curtains would do if they found out About all the things that I've done behind their backs I've got a hamper that's overflowing with really, really loud mistakes And a graveyard in my closet, I'm afraid that if I let you see my skeletons You'll grind my bones into powder and get high on my fault lines Hi, my name is Rudy I enjoy frozen yogurt, people watching And laughing for absolutely no reason at all But I don't allow myself to cry as often as I need to I have solar-powered confidence, I have a battery-operated smile My hobbies include editing my life story, hiding behind metaphors And trying to convince my shadow that I'm someone worth following I don't know much, but I do know this I know that heaven is full of music I know God listens to my heart beat on his iPod It reminds him that we still got work to do.

Movie 1.8 Poetry in Praxis

Waking Up Naked by Michael Lee

I'm at a party when a kid asks me, "Hey, you want a drink bro?" "Uhh, no thanks. I don't drink anymore." "That's fucking lame!" Motherfucker...Lame: Weak, sometimes taken to mean boring. So I'm boring. The parties I usually go to consist of coffee and feelings. A few times a week we sit in a circle and try to piece our lives together. We don't remember them so clearly. Besides bro, one time when weighing only 130 pounds I killed a bottle of Jack Daniel's in 30 minutes the next morning I woke up in the back-seat of my car: naked, and neck deep in leaves. I am allergic to alcohol. Every time I drink I break out in handcuffs. I crapped on a living room the carpet, and then kicked down a door. To date: I have put 3 cats on a treadmill and one dog in a cupboard, do not call me boring sir! Once I forgot where my house was, was escorted by strangers, carrying fifty cookies and an umbrella, butt naked. And one time I head butted my best friend so hard I shattered his nose, and one time I took more pills than I can remember and accepted I would be dead within the hour, don't you dare call me weak. I have swallowed more pints of regret than you have pumped blood through your body. Tell my father it was boring to look his only son in the eyes and tell him if he drank one more time he would not be welcome in this house. Tell my mother I am weak, she who has failed to hold back tears driving me home from the psych ward, she who has seen her son

handcuffed to an Emergency room bed. She spent 4 years praying for my sobriety nightly, you will not take this from her. If you offer me a shot there'd better be a trigger involved. The strongest I have ever felt was the first time I said "NO" to a drink, I have said "NO" every morning since September 29th, 2008. I say "NO" 18 times before breakfast, one for every step it takes to get from my bedroom to the fridge. I say "NO" 10 times before work, one for every billboard that tells me I was stronger when I was drinking. I have said "NO" more times than I can count, one for every night my family lay awake trying not to imagine my head stone. When you ask me the question I do not hear the words you are saying, I hear you ask me, "Do you want to die, Michael?" No. I don't want to die anymore.

Movie 1.9 Poetry in Praxis

Tampon Poem by Sierra DeMulder

Intro: "This is a response poem to your poem, Chris Gibson, about how buying tampons for your daughter is terrifying but you do it because you love her." I get it, you're afraid of things with tails. You must have a fear of hamsters, or tiny fucking kittens, perhaps you have a severe cotton allergy in which case you are most likely always naked and cannot go outside to realize that half of the population, including your mother, are being attacked monthly by this terrifying SATAN SPONGE. Guess what! You were right all along. Vaginas are not actually a sexual organ that can orgasm three times stronger than you and give birth to a gaggle

of adorable babies, no! Vaginas are actually dragons. Scary, fire-breathing, vaginazillas that feed off of tampons, and boners, and lesbians. Thank goodness you're here to warn us, young white poet man! Thank goodness you're here to write a poem about something radical and progressive and liberating for all fathers out there to finally be able to express their fear and confusion of the tampon aisle. I agree, way too many bright, threatening colors. I know, you probably already understand the vagina's basic evolutionary functions, i.e., bleeding, and peeing, and Woody Allen impressions; however, there is SO much more danger! For example, cramps are actually caused by tiny ovary gnomes strangling the balls off your fallopian tubes, bears aren't attracted to menstrual blood— MENSTRUAL BLOOD IS attracted to BEARS. The only way to protect your daughter is to lock her in the closet for five days like a bleeding Harry Potter. Lord knows, there's nothing more terrifying than periods, the natural bodily functions. It's hard enough that everything on this planet teaches women to hate themselves, to feel ashamed before feeling beautiful, and you are disgusted by the ONE THING your daughter's body does that yours doesn't. I know, tampons do look like tiny bullets. JUST MORE AMMO FOR THE VAGINAZILLA. I know, they expand in water, not unlike an infection or a tiny deadly jellyfish. I know, it's hard to understand how they don't just get LOST IN THERE, lost in the dark vulva cavern, but your daughter is bleeding to death, you must go, young white poet man, GO, where many other men have been

and survived because they're just fucking tampons, you dramatic bastard.

Movie 1.10 Poetry in Praxis

Pretty Girl by the Professor

The end of every semester leaves me questioning the sanity of this world That makes women believe that beauty is painful, That love is scarce And that pretty only describes what they are wearing rather than themselves Because I read their stories About how they feel like a lilies Not because clouds wink at them when they walk by But because their fathers only come around once a year during Easter Or how they felt like a roses Not because the color red reminds them of salvation But because their mothers always seem to focus on their thorns Or how they felt like a sunflowers Not because yellow finger tips caress the edges of their face But because the people in their lives only want to use them for their seeds And they write their insecurities About how their boyfriends said that their skin is too dark And so they wear long sleeve shirts to beaches And bleach their skin until whiteness comes screaming Down the hallways of their veins And they write their insecurities About how their family jokes around that their skin is too white And so they dare the sun to a staring contest Wondering who is going to get sick of looking at the other one first And they write their insecurities About how they hate their eyes And so they put in colored contact lenses Thinking that no one can see their shivering soul Through stained glass

windows And they always says they are too fat No matter what
their actual size is That their thighs are too big Their hips are too
wide As they try to erase their body by dissolving their self-
esteem In the pages of a fashion magazine And I want to know
why the boyfriend of the white girl who sits in the first row Hasn't
convinced his girlfriend that her clear blue eyes Must certainly be
God's favorite color And I want to know why the father of the
black girl who sits in the third row Hasn't convinced his daughter
that sunshine dances across her skin As that she gives stars
permission to burn brightly around her And I want to know why
the mother of the Mexican girl who sits in the fifth row That
rainbows must originate somewhere in her laughter And I want to
know why the husband of the Asian girl who sits all the way in the
back Hasn't convinced the love of his life that her brown slanted
eyes Are the binoculars that he looks through in order to see a
better image of himself And these women never say a word in
class Because this world has somehow convinced them That
God made a mistake when making them And so their silence is
due to their tongues being stuck to the roofs of their mouths
Because of how many times they asked the mirror to smile back
at them As they've wondered why we have allowed society let the
Devil himself Use cameras to cannibalize their essence By
creating models that have been airbrushed into resembling all of
their insecurities And the worst part of it is That the people that
are supposed to love them Have done nothing but sat there And
watched