Subcultures

- Subculture –

- A group that is usually set apart from the Dominant culture—

- Almost everyone participates in many subcultures without having much commitment to any of them.

Counterculture

- Counterculture –

- This is the outright rejection of conventional ideas or the dominant culture.
Social Roles

Role Set:

e.g. teachers lecture, assign grades, do research, and so on.

Role conflicts:

e.g. work/family obligations.

Role strain:

e.g. parent/confidant

Role Conflict, Set, and Strain*

Studying Culture

- Ethnocentrism:
- Eurocentrism:
- Androcentrism:
- Cultural Relativism:
**Functionalism**

- Norms and values are explained by showing how they contribute to the survival of the culture

**Conflict Theory**

- Approach rooted in Karl Marx and *materialism*
- Cultural beliefs are *ideology*:

**Symbolic Interactionism**

- Culture reflects shared meanings established by members of society
Feminism(s)

Searched for the causes of women’s subordination

Challenged:
1. 
2. At first thought due to conceiving and giving birth, then discovered it was related to particular societies

Cultural Change

- Change in one dimension of culture usually sparks change in another.
- Cultural integration –
  - EXAMPLE: COMPUTERS AND CHANGES IN OUR LANGUAGE

- Cultural Lag—
  - EXAMPLE: MEDICAL PROCEDURES AND ETHICS (Abortion)
  - Cultural change may be spurred by invention, discovery, or diffusion.

Culture Changes In Three Ways

- **INVENTION** –
- **DISCOVERY** –
- **DIFFUSION** –
Increasing Cultural Conflict

- Differences between cultures are real and basic (e.g. language)
- World is shrinking, increasing interaction between people
- Economic modernization is destroying local traditions
- Western ideas often conflict with Islamic and other cultures

Traditional Socialization Perspectives

What is Socialization?

Socialization:

A.K.A

Humans need social experience to learn their culture.
Human Development:
Nature and Nurture

- Charles Darwin’s study of evolution led to the “nature” argument.
- John Watson developed a theory called behaviorism.
- Eugenics movement (e.g. Nazis, Rushton)
- Social scientists are very cautious about describing behavior as instinctive.

Nature/Nurture Debate

If nature,

If nurture,

Consider the following…
Is adolescence a period of storm and stress?

Social Isolation

- Harry and Margaret Harlow discovered that infant monkeys left in isolation suffered emotional and behavioral damage.
Psychological Perspectives (cont'd)
Erik Erickson

Erikson felt we face eight challenges throughout the life course.
Erikson’s stages:
1. trust vs. distrust
2. autonomy vs. shame and doubt
3. initiative vs. guilt
4. industry vs. inferiority
5. identity vs. confusion
6. intimacy vs. isolation
7. generativity vs. stagnation
8. integrity vs. despair

Primary vs. Secondary Socialization

Primary Socialization

Secondary Socialization

Socialization Agents

Changing role of the family

Declining religious observance
Socialization Agents (cont'd)

Educational influence expands

Peer influence grows

Socialization Agents (cont'd)

Popular culture & Mass Media

- impersonal communications aimed at a vast audience

When all else fails…

Resocialization & Total Institutions

- Resocialization--
- Examples include prisons, psychiatric hospitals, and rehab centers
- Total institution--

- Total institutions impose regimentation for the sole purpose of resocializing
- They attempt to radically change an individual's personality by carefully controlling his or her environment.
- Through regimentation, their identity is broken down, and a new self is re-built.
**Functionalism**

Socialization plays a major role in:

1. 
2. 
3. 

Because socialization is highly complex, it can be incomplete.

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**Conflict Approaches**

- Attitudes and behaviours learned vary by class, gender, and race/ethnicity.

- **Social reproduction:**

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**Feminist Approaches**

Similar concern to conflict theorists.

- Gender Messages in the Family
- Gender Messages in the Mass Media
  - Television
Symbolic Interactionism
Interactions among individuals are mediated by symbols
e.g., language, gestures, expressions

C.H. COOLEY: looking-glass self
The “Self” is socially created in three stages:
1. 
2. 
3. 

Symbolic Interactionism (cont’d)
G.H. MEAD→ effective communication involves
• Mead’s central concept is the self –
  • The self only develops with social experience.

Symbolic Interactionism (cont’d)
Mead’s theory of stages:
• Imitation stage:
• Play stage:
• Game stage:
• Generalized other:
Socialization and the Life Course

- Learning continues throughout our lives.
- Childhood is currently becoming shorter.
- Adolescence is often considered a period of social and emotional turmoil.
- Adulthood is characterized by early goal setting and later reflection.

Limitations of Socialization

There are several limitations to traditional socialization theories.
- Inadequate socialization:
- Defective socialization:
- Disjunctive socialization:

The question of agency versus structure:
- Self-socialization:
- Habitus: