**Week 7: Gender Roles and Socialization; Social Structure**

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS**

This week delves deeper into gender issues. It examines how gender roles are constructed and distinctions between biological and cultural explanations of gendered behaviors. The second part of the class takes a long view of social roles by focusing on the work of symbolic interactionsists. The last part of the lecture covers the key premises of social stratification.

1. What is the difference between sex and gender? Why is this difference important?
2. The first reading states that gender is socially constructed. What does the author mean by social construction? Does this make gender less real?
3. How does the first reading explain behavioral differences between the sexes? From a sociological point of view, why do men and women act differently?
4. How do the evolutionary biologists explain differences in gender roles? What are the main problems with this explanation from a sociological perspective?
5. Explain five institutions that are key for the socialization of gender roles.
6. According to the second reading, what is social status? How is it different from social roles?
7. What is achieved status vs. ascribed status? Which one tends to be more long-lasting?
8. What is master status? What happens when the ascribed status becomes master status? Provide examples.
9. According to the third reading, what are social interactions and why are they important to study?
10. What did Harold Garfinkel do to study social interactions? What are the key findings of his research?
11. What is the definition of social roles? How do social roles change personalities? Discuss Kirkham’s experiment.
12. What is role conflict vs. role strain? Provide examples.
13. Describe impression management used in the dramaturgical approach.
14. What is the difference between the biological and cultural explanations of human emotions?

**General discussion questions:**

* + - 1. How does gender shape our behavior in the public such as in public transportation? Where do these norms of behavior come from?
      2. What role does the social and/or mass media play in reifying gender roles? Can you think of some examples of when you did not feel comfortable about the way gender roles were represented in the media? Explain.
      3. Can you think of some examples of how you conducted impression management in your daily life or social media? What tools did you use? Who was the audience and what were the effects? Did you feel like you achieved your goals?