Social Institutions

- What are institutions
- Organized patterns of beliefs and behavior that are centered on the fulfillment of basic human needs.
- How are they different than organization
Examples of Social Institutions

- Education*
- Religion*
- Medicine
- Marriage
- Government
- Family
- Economy
Social Institutions are cultural universals and satisfy needs of a society

Usually are expressed in an unique form based on native culture

- Marriage
  - Divorce
- Education
- Medicine
Functionalist POV

- Institutions are the foundations of society
  - The columns of society

Society

- Marriage and Family
- Education
- Religion
- Medicine
5 components of institutions

- Replace personnel
- Teaching new recruits
- Producing and Distributing Goods
- Preserving Order
- Sense of Purpose
Agree with Functionalist, institutions perform functions, but perform them for who.

Institutions are too conservative and do not change fast enough to keep up with society

Institutions are a portrait of societies “isms”

Institutions are designed to fulfill the ideology of the dominant class

- Hegemony – Antonio Gramsci
Interactionist POV

- Interactionism focuses on the behavior between individuals within institutions.
- Institutions alter our relationships and generate roles and statuses:
  - Institutions create and establish roles for individuals to occupy.
  - Guidelines give us boundaries.
Institutions

• **Macro level**
  - **Functionalist** – needed to support the needs of society
  - **Conflict** – work to improve the lives of the dominant class, slow to change

• **Micro level**
  - **Interactionists** – established roles and behaviors set up by institutions which guides our behavior
Institution of Education
Functional POV

- **Socialization**
  - Learn the norms and values of the large society

- **Cultural Innovation**
  - Develop new technologies and ideas for society as a whole
  - Genetic engineering

- **Social Integration**
  - People from differing backgrounds come in contact
  - Merging of different cultures
Functional POV

- Social Placement
  - Education places us in order based on our skills and talents
- Latent Functions
- Manifest Functions
- Cynical POV
  - Warehouse for the unemployed
Institution of education does not function equally for everyone

Standardization as a whole
- Not everyone learns at the same pace
- One standard for everyone does not work

Funding in disproportionate
Race and Education

College Enrollment Rates by Race

Education and Income

Dropout Rate by Family Income Level

Interactionist POV

- How do children create relationships in school
- Impressions of the school we attend
  - Name of school
- Our behavior and attitudes change as our level of education changes
- Our level of education affects our quality of life
  - More education = better quality of life
### Education and Quality of Life

#### Highest Education Level Achieved Annual Income (1999)
- Professional Degree $109,600
- Doctoral Degree $89,400
- Master's Degree $62,300
- Bachelor's Degree $52,200
- Associate Degree $38,200
- Some College $36,800
- High School Graduate $30,400
- Not High School Graduate $23,400
Lifetime Income

18

- Highest Education Level Achieved Lifetime Income (40 years)
  - Bachelor's Degree $1,667,700
  - Associate Degree $1,269,850
  - High School Graduate $994,080
  - Not High School Graduate $630,000
Education and Unemployment

With more education, it is less likely that you will become unemployed

- Non-High school – 6.5%
- High School – 3.5%
- Associates – 2.3%
Sociology of Religion
Religion

- Institution of Religion
- Cultural Universal
- Various expressions of religion throughout all cultures
- Unified system of beliefs and practices relative toward sacred things
  - Emile Durkheim
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>2.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>376 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>900 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamist</td>
<td>1.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaist</td>
<td>14 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secular</td>
<td>1.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientologists</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group.
Functionalist

- Integration and solidarity – Durkheim
  - Religious bonds tie people together
- Provides meaning and support to its members
- Purpose in life
- Salvation – religion’s product
- Foundations for Community
- Meeting ground for individuals
Functionalist con’t

- Social control function of religion
  - Religious norms become sacred in society
  - Religious participation also inhibits and discourages behavior that violates norms
  - Religion also encourages helpful, friendly behavior
Conflict POV

- Religion is the opiate of the masses
- Marx believed that religious beliefs are based on illusions
- The idea of salvation eases people view of their situation
- Religion gives people something to hold on to, intangible that can not be bought
Conflict POV

- Attempts to control people and limit their decision making
- Biased towards dominant class
  - Harris County 2004
  - Bible in front of courthouse
- Impedes social change
- Hope of salvation discourages discontent
Interactionist POV

- How we practice our beliefs
- Interaction between the church and its members
- Interaction between religions and their members
- Patterns and Changes of religious behavior
- Traditions and ceremonies within our culture
  - Christmas and Easter
Religion in the US

- **Christian** – 83% (1990), 79% (2001)
  - Catholic – 26% (1990), 25% (2001)
  - Other – 61% (1990), 54% (2001)
- **Other** – 3.5% (1990), 5.4% (2001)
  - Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu
- **Atheist, Agnostic** – 8.4% (1990), 15% (2001)
Mega churches

- Refers to any congregation with a sustained average weekly attendance of 2000 persons or more in its worship services.
- 60% located Texas, Florida, Georgia, and California
- Korea
  - 5/10 top mega churches in the world
  - 250,000 a week
Churches around the U.S.

Megachurches Are Now Found In Most States: Southern States Retain Highest Concentration
Mega churches con’t

- Mega churches tend to grow to their great size within a very short period of time, usually in less than ten years, and under the tenure of a single senior pastor. Nearly all mega church pastors are male, and are viewed as having considerable personal charisma.
- Lakewood Church – 30,000 members
Houston’s own Mega Preacher
Mega churches

City Harvest Church
Singapore
Titanium Clad – $27 million

Houston, TX
Lakewood Church
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Attendance*</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lakewood Church</strong></td>
<td>25,060</td>
<td>Houston, Tex.</td>
<td>Joel Osteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Changers</td>
<td>23,093</td>
<td>College Park, Ga.</td>
<td>Rev. Creflo Dollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Santa Ana, Calif.</td>
<td>Pastor Chuck Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Potter's House</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>Dallas, Tex.</td>
<td>Bishop T.D. Jakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Baptist Church</strong></td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>Houston, Tex.</td>
<td>Dr. H. Edwin Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Christian Church</td>
<td>17,863</td>
<td>Louisville, Ky.</td>
<td>Bob Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Assembly of God</td>
<td>17,532</td>
<td>Phoenix, Ariz.</td>
<td>Dr. Tommy J. Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Creek Community Church</td>
<td>17,115</td>
<td>S. Barrington, Ill.</td>
<td>Bill Hybels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Chapel of Ft. Lauderdale</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale, Fla.</td>
<td>Pastor Bob Coy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddleback Valley Community Church</td>
<td>15,030</td>
<td>Lake Forest, Calif.</td>
<td>Dr. Rick Warren</td>
</tr>
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