



Race and Ethnic Relations [SOC 31] QUIZ

Bronx Community College, CUNY

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1. What is ethnocentrism and why is it important in relations with the dominant culture and minority groups?

Ethnocentrism is the tendency of individuals to identify within their own ethnic or national group to fulfill their needs in group belonging and security. It is important in relations with the dominant culture and minority groups because it gives a better understanding to how negative attitudes towards other races are formed. Ingroups and outgroups are formed regardless of their nationality or ethnicity. Those who share similar cultures are the ingroup, leaving those that don't into the outgroup.

2. Give an example of social distance or ethnocentrism from your own experiences and or observations with family, friends, or neighbors on campus, in your communities or at work.

When I was in high school back in 2001-2005, the students divided themselves into groups based on ethnicity and race. The ESL students, which was dominated by Dominicans would hang out with themselves. They would sometimes include other Spanish native speakers into the group except for the Puerto Ricans. They distanced themselves from the Jamaicans students and vice

versa with the Jamaicans. Another group that was in my high school were there Albanians, who were very exclusive to every other race in the school.

3. How does a race differ from an ethnic group and what is the difference between a minority group and a race?

Race is a group of people who share similar physical characteristics, such as bone structure, skin color, and other genetics. Ethnicity is a group of people who share similar cultures or traditions. Minority group are those who live somewhere where a majority race is at. Being Dominican is an ethnicity, from the Hispanic race. Bring a Dominican in the United States, makes you a minority group because the majority group is White/Caucasian.

4. What is the relationship among culture, reality and intergroup relations?

Culture are material and non-material things that are important to individuals in a group that define their norms. Through culture individuals learn how to perceive the world around them, or their “reality.” This reality is passed down from generation to generation. The norms in the culture one group may often time clash with other groups during intergroup relations, which is known as a culture shock. This is how culture, reality, and intergroup relations relate.

5. What is the relationship between ethnicity and social class?

Social class is defined as an individual’s economic status, whether they are rich, middleclass, or poor. Often those who come from third world countries and are considered first generation Americans are often time poor. Their value on education and preparing their children after they are adults often time effect how the second generations move up or remain the same. Some

cultures value education more and can afford to send their children to top schools which will help them in their social class.

6. Do any persistent subcultures live near your home or campus (or have you even come across any)? If so, what have been your experiences with them? What do you know about them? How do you interact with or relate with them?

I was in Washington DC this summer during the “Unite the Right Rally.” I joined with an anti-rally to march against them. They are a group that call themselves the “Alternative Rights” which are attempting to strengthen White power in America. Many of them are members of the Ku Klux Klan and are extremely racists. They were told that they could not wear masks in their rally, and so many of them did not show up in fear of their identity being exposed to their employers. The anti-rally had over ten thousand people marching, the Unite the White only had about 12 people and were heavily protected against the Antifasc people who were in the anti-rally.

7. What are some of the common and possible causes of prejudice and what is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?

Some common and possible causes of prejudice are self-justification, personality, and frustration. Self-justification is when groups denigrate another group to justify for reasons to treat them unfairly. Personality comes from the individuals experience as a child and learned behaviors from their parents, often displaced aggression leads to the individual discriminating an outside race. Frustration is when individuals start to put displaced aggression in minorities or majorities

and often leads to scapegoating or looking for any reason to blame others for their frustrations. These are the three common and possible causes of prejudice.

8. Is racial profiling always a bad thing? Why or why not?

Racial profiling is always a bad thing. To perceive all individuals as the same based on the color of the skins versus the context of their heart results in negative attributes. It also disregards one's individualism. Not everyone from the same race has the same upbringing, therefore labeling them is negative. Racial profiling also can lead towards bigger issues such as xenophobia, hate groups, or worst.

9. Some Caucasians and minority leaders are dissatisfied with “affirmative action” as being unfair and attaching a stigma to minority achievement. Other Caucasian and minority leaders say that it is still necessary to create a level playing field. What are your thoughts on affirmative action and why did you provide the response that you have given?

I am in the middle when it comes to Affirmative actions. Affirmative action has positive and negative effect. On the positive side it strengthens opportunities towards minorities who do not have the same resources as other rice white people do. On the other hand, if someone has worked really hard at achieving a goal and cannot have that opportunity due to affirmative action, it is unfair to take that away from them due to their race and quota system. Ultimately I believe that affirmative action should be tweaked to consider one's social class and upbringing instead of race and ethnicity.

10. What similarities in dominant – minority patterns were shared by most northern and western European immigrants?

Most Northern and Western European immigrants shared similar dominant and minority patterns. They all sought out some form of refuge, whether it be for religious or political reasons, for immigrating. Many of them were dominantly unskilled males between the ages of 18 to 25, who were seeking out employments in urban areas. They worked at factories and provided most of steel and textiles materials. They also at one point in history faced some form of discrimination based on their ethnicity or race.