**Study Guide C: Socialization**

### I. Reading: Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society, 2e.  
**Chapter 4: Socialization.**

This chapter explores socialization. The learning objectives for this chapter are to:

- Understand the socialization process as social control, as a balance of conformity and individual adaptation, and as a lifelong process.
- Describe the relationship between socialization and self-esteem.
- Identify the consequences of socialization in establishing self-concepts, creating the capacity for role taking, creating the tendency for people to act in socially acceptable ways, and in making people the bearers of culture.
- Understand and apply the major theories of socialization—psychoanalytic, object relations, social learning, and symbolic interaction.
- Identify the influence of socialization agents—the family, the media, peers, religion, sports, and schools.
- Examine the influence of class, race, gender, religion, regional background, sexual preference, age, and ethnicity on the process of socialization in a diverse society.
- Identify the key tasks of socialization across the life cycle—childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age.
- Appreciate the role and significance of rites of passage.
- Understand the processes of resocialization and conversion from a sociological perspective.
- Understand the contribution of sociology to the brainwashing debate.

### II. Video/Televised Lesson:  
**Lesson #5: Socialization.**

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the significance of socialization.
2. Identify and discuss the controversial issues that are part of the study of socialization.
3. Explain the role of the social environment in the social construction of self.
4. Discuss the roles of agencies of socialization in the social construction of self.
5. Explain why socialization is a life-long process.

### III. ASSIGNMENTS.

Attached are this week’s worksheet and application. Please consult the syllabus on how to send the assignments to me by Tuesday, October 22nd.

**Worksheet 4:** 25 points  
**Application 2:** 75 points
Worksheet 4. Chapter 4 and Telecourse Lesson 5: Socialization. 25 points.

1. Using socialization theory, explain why self-esteem depends so much on how others in society view you.

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2. Consider each of the socialization theories presented in the text, and describe how each theory explains how identity is shaped by agents (or agencies) of socialization in society.
[This will be useful in the application.]

Psychoanalytic Theory:
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Object Relations Theory:
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Social Learning Theory:
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Symbolic Interaction Theory:
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3. Choose one of the stages of socialization across the life cycle (childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age). Describe the issues confronting the person and the ways that socialization takes place in that stage. ______________________________________________________________________
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4. Give an example of a rite of passage you have experienced, and explain what purpose it served for you. ______________________________________________________________________
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5. Define resocialization and total institution. Explain why resocialization requires a total institution. [This will be useful if you choose Option 1 of the application.] ______________________________________________________________________
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6. How do sociologists explain so-called “brainwashing”? [See text discussion.] ______________________________________________________________________
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Socializing or Resocializing Youth Toward Non-Violence

This week’s application focuses on the issue of youth violence. This issue has gained prominence over the last few years following a spate of violence in middle class, predominantly white neighborhoods, who kill their teachers, their schoolmates, and/or their parents. Despite extensive media coverage of these events, there has been little public discussion of what social processes lead youth to commit violent acts and what social programs might be effective in rehabilitating and redirecting youth who have committed violence.

Your challenge for this assignment can take one of two directions:

**Option One**: Imagine that you work at a juvenile detention facility that must care for these youth until they are 18 years old. Your task is to resocialize them so that they will be able to re-enter society and live as productive, non-violent members. What kind of program would you develop to insure that outcome. Support your program by reference to the socialization process, socialization theories, agents of socialization, and the process of resocialization. Be specific and detailed, as though you were charged with presenting the outlines of a program to Congress or the State Legislature.

**Option Two**: Imagine that you work for an organization that has been asked to design a comprehensive family-support and community-based approach to prevent events like the schoolyard and parental killings. Referring to what you know about the socialization process, socialization theories, and agents of socialization, what kind of program would you develop? Write your proposal as though you were presenting a plan to a City Council or School Board for possible adoption.

Write your plan in the form of a **2-page essay**. Your program elements may be listed as headlines or bulleted points, but you must justify or explain the reasons for each element of your program, based on sociological concepts. **Rely on concepts and theories in the Chapter and Lesson on Socialization**, to demonstrate that you understand and can apply them. For Option One, pay particular attention to the components of a resocialization process.