

- Symbols in everyday life
 - How do people use symbols to develop views of the world and communicate with one another
 - generate theories about how people learn to play certain roles and how these roles are understood and used in everyday life
- Life without symbols
 - no relationships
 - no society
 - no self
 - ideas about who we are
 - self is constantly changing
 - we adjust our view of who we are based on our interpretation of the reaction of others
- Functional Analysis
 - Society is composed of many social units
 - analogy: Society as a living organism
 - (this is structural functionalism)
 - **Structure: How the parts fit together to make the whole
 - **Function: How it contributes to society
 - dysfunctional parts
 - what if a structure isn't functioning
 - families that aren't working properly
 - education takes bearing first
- Conflict Theory
 - society is composed of groups in competition for scarce resources
 - key to human history is class struggle
 - conflict in smaller and larger groups
 - conflict between men and women
 - (any theory relating to conflict relates to marx)
- [Chapter 2: Culture]--
 - Language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, objects
 - material culture: jewelry, art, buildings, weapons, clothing, etc.

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-nonmaterial culture

- A groups way of thinking
 - values, beliefs
- and doing
 - gestures, language, forms of interaction
- There is nothing "Natural" about culture
- Culture becomes a lense through which we see the world and obtain our perception of reality
- Culture influences the way we think things ought to be
- Ethnocentrism
 - we learn that our ways of doing things are superior
- Cultural Relativism
- :
 - To try to understand cultures on their own terms
 - look at customs in relation to the history
 - Example: Bull Fighting
 - Look at american history
- :
 - dog fighting
 - cock fighting
 - bear-dog fighting
 - etc
- Exaple: Eating a live monkey
 - to us it may be immoral, yet it is common in other place
- Robert Edgerton
 - Sick Societies (1992)
 - Develop a scale for evaluating cultures on their quality of life
 - Cultural values that result in exploitation are inferior to those that enhance people's lives
 - What about societies that:
 - engage in female genital mutilation
 - wife beating/murder
 - selling young girls into prostitution
- Gestures
 - using one's body to communicate with others
 - Associated with emotional messages
 - in other cultures a lack of knowledge about gestures could:

week 2 notes.txt

- cause you miss out on the meaning of a situation
 - appear foolish
 - insult others
- Language
- language allow s cultures to exist
 - language allows
 - culture to develop by freeing people to move beyond their immediate experiences
 - people to develop a shared past and shared experiences