Chapter 7: The Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy

Multiple Choice Questions  Leave short answer and essay questions blank on your scantron

1. Based on the Gini coefficient, if a country scored "0", what would it indicate?
   a) The unequal income of women to men
   b) The equal contribution of labor by women and men
   c) Perfect income equality
   d) The unequal contribution of labor by women and men

2. Based on the Gini coefficient, which country has the most equal distribution of household income?
   a) Denmark
   b) Spain
   c) United States
   d) Botswana

3. In any stratified society
   a) people are placed in positions by how well they earn a living and contribute to society.
   b) people’s access to jobs, wealth, and privilege is determined largely by their position in the hierarchy.
   c) social position is reinforced through religious ideals (dogma) and the power of an elite group.
   d) rank and class are determined by education and access to wealth.

4. According to the Comaroffs, the “crisis of masculinity” refers to
   a) the subordination of males by females in states with affirmative action.
   b) separation of males from one another in early childhood.
   c) exclusion from local economies and increased autonomy.
   d) infant circumcision and the later psychological effect leading to aggression.

5. In Murray Milner’s study of high school social groups, which of these were used as symbolic identity markers?
   a) Clothing
   b) Music preferences
   c) Gathering places in school
   d) All of the above

6. The structural features of our economy and society that result in maintaining huge gaps in wealth and well-being are
   a) access to education, the job market, and classism.
b) racism, institutional blocks, and education.
c) debt, the devaluing of labor, and the new racism.
d) capital theory, new racism, and status quo.

7. According to Marx, classes arise when a group—a ruling class, landlords, bosses and so on—gains control of the
   a) free market system of trade.
   b) surplus value of labor.
   c) banking systems.
   d) means of production.

8. At least two things have produced a growing inequality between the wealthy and the poor in America:
   a) exploitative and integrative issues of social class.
   b) increased taxation on the middle class and inflation.
   c) outsourcing and the systematic destruction of labor unions
   d) revised loan and debt laws.

9. Debt is, in effect,
   a) a false demand for consumer goods that artificially keeps prices low.
   b) a regressive tax that redistributes money upward to the more wealthy and, consequently, maintains and increases economic inequality.
   c) an ideology of the capitalist class to maintain the status quo of lower classes.
   d) a false need for trade developed with the theory of capitalism that you can sell promissory notes for profit.

10. The new racism is
    a) a redux of biological eugenics.
    b) based upon bio-cultural features discovered in the genome project.
    c) a negative view of others derived from migration of Third World peoples.
    d) based not on biological characteristics but instead on cultural differences that are assumed to be insurmountable.

11. Claims that race is no longer responsible for inequality
    a) ignore the cumulative historical impact of discrimination.
    b) are based upon solid genetic research.
    c) are the result of better systems of education.
    d) have been possible by legislative fiat.

12. If people accept the idea that intelligence can explain how well people do then
    a) the fiction that people’s rank in society depends solely on their own natural ability can be maintained.
    b) we can provide equal educational opportunities to all.
    c) skills can be determined and addressed equally.
    d) there is a philosophical foundation for alleviating racism.

13. Francis Galton, founder of modern statistics, argued that “genius” is
a) inherited.  
b) randomly distributed within a population.  
c) largely a result of environment.  
d) a product of education.  

14. The scientist who worked with skulls in an effort to prove that northern Europeans were socially and biologically superior was  
a) Margaret Mead  
b) Franz Boaz  
c) Oscar Lewis  
d) Samuel Morton  

15. According to Philippe Bourgois, poverty and marginalization of the inner cities has resulted in an "inner-city street culture." This subculture is  
a) coherent.  
b) based on political opposition.  
c) limited to the inner city.  
d) a spontaneous set of rebellious practices.  

16. Some anthropologists maintain that the behavior of people in poverty represent  
a) values of fatalism.  
b) psychological responses to lack of money to participate in consumerism.  
c) school administrators.  
d) their adaptations to their socioeconomic condition: no money and no jobs.  

17. The term “generalized reciprocity” describes which of these situations?  
a) A person shares with others but expects them to reciprocate at some later time.  
b) A person shares with others but does not expect them to reciprocate at some later time.  
c) A person does not share with others but expects sharing from others.  
d) A person shares with others and items are exchanged on the spot.  

18. According to Carol Stack, how did residents of The Flats care for their children in the face of poverty?  
a) A reliance of public services  
b) In much the same way any nuclear family does.  
c) Through networks of support that might involve three or four adults  
d) All of the above  

19. In El Barrio, Bourgois discovered that  
a) peoples’ consumption behavior mirrored rapidly upward mobile persons in the legal economy.  
b) internal networks of kinship provided underground economic services.  
c) drug dealers were emulating legal capitalist systems of trade.  
d) the culture of poverty was thriving and most people did not need government assistance.
20. What Hutterite activity occurs every fifteen years and provides communities with a constant goal?
   a) Group divisions  
   b) Group discussions  
   c) Group marriages  
   d) Barn raisings

21. Among the Hutterite communities of Canada and the United States,
   a) competition is rejected.  
   b) women are considered intellectually and physically inferior to men.  
   c) personal adornment is frowned on.  
   d) All of the above

22. After working for many years among the poor in Haiti, Paul Farmer concluded
   a) good health is reserved for the wealthy.  
   b) health is a basic human right.  
   c) western doctors can do the most to benefit the health of Haitians.  
   d) All of the above

23. The top 358 global billionaires have a combined income equal to that of the
   a) 2.3 billion poorest people in the world.  
   b) 2.3 million poorest people in the world.  
   c) 1.6 billion poorest people in the world.  
   d) 3 billion poorest people in the world

True/False Questions

24. Most societies use the same criteria to differentiate people into various levels in society.

25. People’s access to wealth and social privileges is determined mainly by their social and class status.

26. According to Jean and John Comaroff, the current “crisis of masculinity” is largely limited to highly industrialized societies.

27. The division of labor leads to some form of social stratification.

28. In the American economy, debt is not as essential as food or shelter.

29. There has been a continuing effort on the part of some members of the scientific establishment to marshal evidence to prove that intelligence is a genetic inherited trait that differs according to racial groups.
30. How the bodily processes of women are described in our own society is objective.

31. The “identity soup” campaign, as it came to be called, is an example of what some have termed the new racism.

32. The “culture of poverty” was a term used by Oscar Lewis to describe the lifestyle and worldview of people who inhabit urban and rural slums.

33. In the Flats, described by Carol B. Stack, the conditions of poverty forced people into nuclear families rather than kinship and friendship networks.

34. In East Harlem in the 1990s, poverty rates reached as high as 40 percent.

35. Actions of remote government or international agencies that result in denial to the poor of basic rights of food, shelter, or livelihood are known as international violence.

36. The modern human rights movement originated, in part, with the Nuremberg trials during World War II.

37. Short Answer Questions

a. How is the dilemma of youth as a marginalized social category evident in the American high school? Why are youth (teenagers) labeled by some as the most dangerous criminals? [p. 263-264]

b. How is debt the foundation of our present economic system? [pp. 266-267]

c. According to Marx, how do classes arise? What is the idea of the surplus value of labor? [pp. 266-268]

d. What is meant by the new racism? [pp. 270-273]

e. The language used to describe menopause often encodes attitudes about a woman's primary function. What are some of these terms, and what do they reveal? What is the difference in the language used to describe menstruation and sperm production? Why is the difference significant? [pp. 282-284]

f. Describe the concept of the culture of poverty. What are some of the criticisms of this idea? How does Stack see kinship as an adaptation to poverty [pp. 284-286]

g. What is the difference between a caste system and a class system? [p. 262]

h. In high school social life, what is the purpose of “dumping” on someone? [p. 264]
i. How did Samuel George Morton believe he could measure the intelligence of people of different races? What were some of the errors that Morton made that led to his ranking of races? [pp. 274-276]

j. What does "branching" mean for the Hutterites? What is their procedure for "branching"? [p. 293]

38. Essay Questions

a. Discuss the Comaroffs’ “crisis of masculinity.” [pp. 263-264]

b. Discuss the three structural features of our economy and society that result in maintaining huge gaps in wealth and well-being. [pp. 266-273]

c. How does ideology function to legitimize or reinforce social hierarchy? What are some ways, for example, that Americans have legitimized racial and/or gender stratification? [pp. 273-284]

d. After reading the story about selling crack in El Barrio, how do you think the availability of drugs impacts urban poor? How do places such as El Barrio develop? Put it in an historical context. [pp. 286-290]

e. “If there will ever be a perfect culture it may not be exactly like the Hutterites—but it will be similar.” Explain this statement by describing Hutterite society. Does the statement warrant any truth? [pp. 292-294]

f. What are some of the issues confronting anthropologists working with human rights? [pp. 294-298]

g. How are poverty and health linked in Haiti? [pp. 298-300]

Annual Editions Article #40. BEING INDIGENOUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, WILMA MANKILLER

KEY TERMS AND TOPICS

Etenoha -- Onondaga word for the Earth, meaning “our mother from whence all life springs.”

39. In the view of the author of “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century,” indigenous people everywhere are connected both by their values and by their:
   a. blood.
   b. traditions.
   c. oppression.
   d. lands.
40. As reported in “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century,” after 30 years of advocacy by indigenous peoples, in 2008:
   a. the U.S. government made reparation payments for land taken from Native Americans.
   b. Native American contributions during World War II were recognized with Medals of Honor.
   c. tribal treaties from the nineteenth century were recognized by the U.S. government.
   d. the United Nations passed a declaration supporting their distinct human rights.

41. According to “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century,” the Cherokee people of Oklahoma started some of the first schools west of the Mississippi. (T/F)

42. As recounted in “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century,” the Stolen Generation report concerned aboriginal children of Australia who were forcibly removed from their families and
   a. adopted into white families.
   b. sent to boarding schools.
   c. resettled in Canada.
   d. incarcerated in juvenile-detention centers.

43. As put forth in “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century,” when women such as Pauline Whitesinger and Carrie Dann speak of preserving the land for future generations, they are not just talking about future generations of humans, they are also talking of future generations of plants, animals, water, and all living things. (T/F)

44. As enumerated in “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century,” what are some of the sovereign rights exercised by tribal governments in the United States?
   a. judicial systems and police forces
   b. k-12 schools and more than two dozen tribally controlled community colleges
   c. clinics and hospitals and business enterprises
   d. none of the above
   e. all of the above

#14. WHEN BROTHERS SHARE A WIFE: AMONG TIBETANS, THE GOOD LIFE RELEGATES MANY WOMEN TO SPINSTERHOOD, MELVYN C. GOLDSTEIN

KEY TERMS AND TOPICS

   Fraternal Polyandry -- a form of polygamy in which two or more brothers marry the same woman.

   Polygyny -- a form of polygamy in which a man marries more than one woman.
45. According to "When Brothers Share a Wife," polyandry in Tibet
   a. is considered detrimental to social structure.
   b. is based on the need for population growth.
   c. consists of brothers marrying the same woman.
   d. causes early death for many women.

46. Fraternal polyandry in Tibet was traditionally a marriage arranged by
   a. parents of those to be married.
   b. the elder of the brothers to be married.
   c. the woman to be married.
   d. the brothers as a group.

47. According to "When Brothers Share a Wife," in a polyandrous marriage
   a. the wife always shows favor to the youngest brother.
   b. children can tell who their real father is and address him by a special title.
   c. there is only one set of heirs in a generation.
   d. if one brother decides to leave, the wife is returned to her own family.

48. Tibetans generally opt for fraternal polyandry, as asserted in "When Brothers Share a Wife," because of
   a. sexual preference.
   b. social pressure.
   c. materialistic interests.
   d. strong kinship bonds.

49. Melvyn C. Goldstein states in "When Brothers Share a Wife" that fraternal polyandry is practiced in Tibet because of the shortage of females caused by female infanticide.
   (T/F)

50. If a brother in a polyandrous marriage in Tibet is dissatisfied and wants to separate,
   a. he cannot do so as it would be against the law.
   b. he can do so, but would have economic difficulties.
   c. he can take his children with him, along with his proportionate share of the family land and do quite well on his own.
   d. he can take his own children with him, but gets no land, animals or possessions.

51. Which of the following is true of fraternal polyandry in Tibet?
   a. All the brothers are equal in authority.
   b. The wife is supposed to favor the elder brother sexually
   c. It is not important to link children biologically to particular brothers.
   d. All of the above.

52. As described in "When Brothers Share a Wife," unmarried women were found to do all of the following except
a. set up their own household.
b. have more children on average than married women.
c. become Buddhist nuns.
d. work as servants for other families.

53. According to Melvyn C. Golstein (in the “Author’s Note box), the end of the commune system in Tibet has resulted in
   a. resurgence of fraternal polyandry.
   b. desire for daughters to inherit the land, not sons.
   c. an increase in monogamy, with each brother owning land independently.
   d. ownership of the land by corporations and not families.

54. According to "When Brothers Share a Wife," the eldest brother in a household usually exercises the authority and is addressed as Father. (T/F)

#16. ARRANGING A MARRIAGE IN INDIA, 
    SERENA NANDA

KEY TERMS AND TOPICS

    Love Match -- a marriage in India that is not arranged.

55. According to "Arranging a Marriage in India," the practice of arranged marriages in India
   a. is largely a phenomenon of the past.
   b. is preferred by some young Indians.
   c. is an unmitigated disaster for women.
   d. has no redeeming value as a mode of selecting life partners.

56. The author of "Arranging a Marriage in India" speculates that the practice of arranged marriages has resulted in young Indian women
   a. resenting their parents' influence on their lives.
   b. becoming self-confident and charming since they did not have to worry about their popularity with the opposite sex.
   c. becoming shy and hesitant in social interactions.
   d. seeking to marry men from other cultures to avoid arranged marriages.

57. As noted in "Arranging a Marriage in India," the practice of giving a dowry is still legal but rarely occurs these days in India. (T/F)

58. According to "Arranging a Marriage in India," the prevalence of arranged marriages in India has resulted in
   a. higher divorce rates than in the United States.
   b. divorce rates similar to those in the United States.
   c. many young Indians traveling outside India in order to make their own marriage
arrangements.
d. much lower divorce rates than in the United States.

59. In India, the qualities to look for in a young man as a marriage candidate have to do with his
   a. education.
   b. height.
   c. skin color.
   d. all of the above.

60. According to the article, "Arranging a Marriage in India," young Indian women believe that
   a. marriage is too important to be arranged by inexperienced young people by themselves.
   b. meeting a lot of different people through dating sounds like a lot of fun.
   c. there is more anxiety and loss of self-esteem associated with arranged marriages than with individual choice.
   d. all of the above.

61. According to Nanda, parents in India do not compel their children to marry a person who either potential marriage partner finds objectionable. (T/F)

#17. WHO NEEDS LOVE!: IN JAPAN, MANY COUPLES DON'T, NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

KEY TERMS AND TOPICS

   Gaman -- a Japanese term for patience, particularly in enduring hardship.

   7-11 Husbands -- city-dwelling Japanese husbands, so called because they are generally out of the house from 7 a.m. until after 11 p.m.

62. In a typical, traditional Japanese family, according to “Who Needs Love,” the husband
   a. does not tell his wife that he likes her or thank her for what she does for him.
   b. spends very little time with the children.
   c. spends little time talking to his wife.
   d. all of the above.

63. According to "Who Needs Love! In Japan, Many Couples Don't" the divorce rate in Japan
   a. is the highest in the industrialized world.
b. is due to incompatible spouses.
c. rises as love matches rise.
d. is low because of harsh property settlement laws.

64. As reported in "Who Needs Love! In Japan, Many Couples Don't" Japanese couples divorce infrequently because
   a. they are not allowed to marry under tradition until they have lived together for 10 years.
   b. they have low expectations for marriages and because there are cultural stigmas toward divorce including no child support for women and for men, no promotions at work.
   c. extramarital affairs are expected because of the former need to vary the gene pools of the populations of historically isolated villages.
   d. the court fees are typically twice the annual incomes of the spouses.

65. The typical, traditional Japanese family is best described as
   a. durable.
   b. happy.
   c. cohesive, in the sense that husband, wife and children do a lot together.
   d. all of the above.

66. According to "Who Needs Love! In Japan, Many Couples Don't" the religious concept of “gaman”, or predetermined fate, is a major reason many Japanese women remain in abusive marriages. (T/F)

67. A 1995 study, published by the Population Council and noted in "Who Needs Love! In Japan, Many Couples Don't" suggests that Japan is the one prominent exception in the world with respect to the general
   a. increase in divorce rates.
   b. decrease in two-parent households.
   c. increase in marriage rates.
   d. decrease in extended families living together as a household.

68. Having an affair is much more traumatic in the West than it would be in a Japanese marriage. (T/F)