# Groups & Societies: Understanding Our Environment

What are the characteristics of social groups?
- Whether we're aware of it or not, we all belong to a _____ in some way or another– families, close friends, teammates, classmates, clubs, and organizations are all examples of groups to which we belong.
- For all intents and purposes, your membership in your family is permanent, but you might not work with the same people for the rest of your life.

Social Groups
- _____ are groups that consist of _____ or _____ who interact with one another and share a common identity.
- Although no two groups are alike, they do have two commonalities:
- The members of the group share _____
- They_____ each other as _____ of that group.

Primary Groups
- According to _____, groups can be divided into two categories— _____ and _____.
- _____ are small, intimate, and long-lasting.
- Our most _____ with family members and close friends form primary groups.
- Primary groups help us to determine who we are.

Primary Groups & Looking Glass Selves
- It is through _____ that we create our "_____".
- By reflecting their _____ back to us, primary relationships provide valuable _____.

Secondary Groups
- _____, on the other hand, are _____, _____, and last for a _____ or fixed _____.
- These groups generally come together to meet some _____or purpose.

Bounded Relationships
- Such groups provide _____that exist only under specific conditions.

**_For example, you and your co-workers might "do lunch," but you probably wouldn't invite them to a family function._**
**_Co-workers form a group that is usually of secondary importance to you._**

Secondary Norms
- Formal types of _____ heavily influence the way we interact in secondary groups.
- These _____direct our _____ and frame our _____.
- Moreover, the types of norms we follow when interacting affects the way we feel about the group.
- If we are close and informal, we may fit in with the group, making it feel like a primary one.
- If not, we can easily feel like outsiders.

- One day your in, the next day you are out, You might have acknowledged different "_____" in school, such as jocks, the artists, or theater kids.
- If you have ever had to wait for what seemed for hours on the sidelines—while the all the popular kids were getting chosen for the team—you were hoping to be welcomed into an _____.

In-Groups
- An _____is a group to which we feel an infinity or closeness.
- For this reason, we often have a strong sense of loyalty to an in-group.
- Most people hold _____, the feeling that their in-group is **superior** to others.

Example of In-group Bias
***Have you ever noticed that it is OK for you to talk badly about your family, but it someone else insults them, you get angry?***
***That is because most people hold an in-group bias toward their own family, and if someone who is not part of that groups attacks it, they defend the group.***

Merton & Biases
- Sociologist _____suggests that our biases come from our position in society.
- We see the traits of our group as acceptable while we hold the views of out-groups as unreasonable.

Positive & Negative Bias
- Generally people hold biases toward out-groups; however, there are a number of factors that impact whether these biases are _____ or _____.
- _____in high school can hold either a positive or negative bias toward the "popular" group.
- If the outcasts know that nothing can change their outsider status, then they're likely to hold the cool kids in contempt.

Tajfel & Turner
- Sociologists _____suggest that everyone seeks a positive _____.
- This pursuit is the root cause of in-group and out-group _____.
- We may point out the negative differences in others to elevate our own identity, even if the differences are insignificant.
- _____ and _____ are other factors that can impact our _____ of in-groups and out-groups.

Reference Groups
- In nearly every situation, we compare ourselves to another person or group.
- Since we cannot make _____ about our own behavior in isolation, we often use others to _____ our behavior.
- Sociologists refer to the group you use to evaluate yourself as a _____.

Group Size, Structure and Interaction
- _____ come in all shapes and sizes.
- As a group gets larger, maintaining in-group feelings becomes harder.
- Smaller groups tend to be more intimate and less official, making them easier to maintain.

Dyads
- The smallest and strongest form of a group is a _____, a group consisting of only two people.
- The two members become very close, intimate, and connected.
- Think of a happy marriage as an example of a dyad.
- Such closeness is not possible in larger groups.

Downside of the Dyad
- A dyad can also be unstable because either member can _____ decide to _____ the group.
- If someone ever dumped you, you probably understand this principle.

Triads
- When a third member enters a twosome, a _____, or group of three forms.
- In a triad, _____, _____, and _____ are likely.
- Triads can also allow alliances between two of the members, potentially against the third which weakens the group.
- Sociologist _____calls a triad the _____ groups size.

End Impact of Size
- As group size _____, there are greater opportunities for potential interactions, but also _____and _____.
- When the group size was small, people remained together, however as the size grew to greater than ten, people break into subgroups.
- Such divisions are normal, even among the closest of families.

Leadership Styles
- In many groups, there are always those individuals who stand apart from the crowd and become leaders, either _____ or _____.
- _____ et al. summarized three different _____ (a behavioral mode that leaders use to influence members)
- Autocratic, democratic, and laissez-faire styles.

Autocratic Leadership
- _____determine the group policies and assign tasks.
- These strict authoritarians inform you, "It's my way or the highway."

Democratic Leadership
- _____strive to set group policy by discussion and agreement.
- They hope for consensus and are likely to ask for your opinion on matters.

Laissez-Faire Leadership
- _____ lead by absence and may in fact not want to be leaders at all.
- They set few goals and do only what must be done.

All Leadership Styles:
- There is _____ of leadership style.
- Successful leaders _____ the style to the _____.
- The process of leadership impacts both the _____ and _____.
- Leadership styles are _____.
- Different styles can be effective in _____ and/or with _____ of people.

Conformity
- Because it takes the rare individual to stand out and be a leader, most members of a group are followers in some way.
- _____ refers to the degree to which we will alter our behavior, attitudes, and points of view to fit into our perceived expectation of what is appropriate.

Conformity:  Asch's Theory
- Psychologist _____ wanted to test the impact of groups on people's perception in 1952.
- Asch set up groups so that only one member was not aware that the rest were actors.
- When people are in a group, they often want to _____ to the majority and don't offer an opinion that goes against the grain.

Groupthink
- At times, group conformity becomes so strong that a group will not consider other ideas or influences.
- Extremely cohesive groups or ones with very strong leaders might make decisions using groupthink.
- _____ is a term for groups decisions that are made without objective thought.

Groupthink Mode
- When a group is in this mode, people conform to what they believe is the _____.
- They often make decisions that they would not make as individuals.
- _____ leads to group think.
- If frequently results to _____, that people later agree were a mistake.

Groupthink Conditions:
- _____: Groups that are highly connected are more likely to engage in groupthink.
- _____: When groups encounter an external threat, solidarity increases because common enemy unify groups.
- _____: If the leader has a domineering style or is charismatic enough, groups will usually accept the leader's will.

- Shortcomings that result from Groupthink:
- _____→ Groupthink creates excessive optimism that the desired outcome will occur.
- _____→ Members ignore warnings as irrelevant and will not reconsider the assumptions of the decision.
- _____→ People in the group believe their cause is just and right.
- _____→ Groupthink is likely when members view themselves as the "good guys" and their opponents as the "bad guys"
- _____→ Members of the group who disagree are under pressure to keep quiet if they dissent.
- _____→ Group members squelch their doubts and fail to express reservations that they may have about the proposal.
- _____→ The group leadership mistakes a pressured majority view for unanimity.
- _____→ Certain members play the role of protector of the leader, shielding him or her from information or ideas that might be contradictory to the groups decisions.

Social Capital and Social Networks
- When you think of all the possible things that brought you to this point in your life, you are basically thinking about social capital.
- _____is the sociological concept that refers to the individual and collective resources available to a person.

What is social capital?
- Social capital includes the _____, _____, _____, and _____that influence interactions among people and contribute to _____ and _____development.
- Sociologist _____suggests that social capital impacts _____of our lives and affects the choices and options available to us.
- Most of us use this kind of capital to find _____, _____, and other _____.

Coleman vs. Bourdieu
- Although _____ suggests that social capital is _____for society and individuals, _____, a _____, views it as an economic resource.
    - ***Consider legacy admissions: A policy in which applicants to a highly touted private university are admitted based on their family's history with the school.***

Social Network
- The social contacts that people make when culled together, comprise a _____, which is one component of _____.
- Basically, a _____is the web of ties you have with others.
- Networks usually include people with similar _____, _____, and _____.

- Social networks allow us to gain _____ and may even open doors of
  _____.
- Sites such as _____, _____, and _____ serve
  as virtual alternatives to traditional networks.

Formal Organizations
- _____ are groups created for a certain purpose and built for maximum
  efficiency.
1. Examples of formal organizations:
2. Voluntary associations
3. Organizations and Bureaucracies
4. Voluntary Associations
- Through joining a team, singing in a choir, or helping in a soup kitchen you can make
  _____.
- In 1995, political scientist _____ showed that _____ in these
  kinds of associations is _____
- People are joining organizations less frequently, creating a more _____ and
  _____.
- The social capital of our entire society may be suffering from
  _____, despite our using networks to increase our
  outcomes and improve our lives.
- _____ have life-changing effects on communities.
- Through fostering a better sense of community among individuals, voluntary associations
  helped control _____ → keep people occupied with a sense of purpose,
  they feel more inclined incorporate birth control into their lifestyle.

Organizations and Bureaucracies
- _____ come in a variety of types and sizes.
- Some organizations are formed to _____ a cause, such as the ASPCA.
- Others, like the retail chain Best Buy, serve to _____.
- All organizations are alike in that they are _____ that exist to achieve a
  desired goal.
- Sociologist _____ suggested that the _____ of organization
  ultimately determines our _____ in it.

Utilitarian Organizations
- When you get a job at a department store or office building, you're joining a
  _____.
- Members join utilitarian organizations because they receive _____ in
  exchange for _____.

Normative Organizations
- _____, though, exist in order to achieve a
  _____.
- If you volunteer at normative organization, such as a soup kitchen, you do so because you
  believe feeding the homeless serves an essential purpose in society.

Coercive Organizations
- While we willingly join utilitarian and normative organizations, we do not join _____ by choice.
- Members of coercive organizations, like prison inmates or rehab patients, don't join voluntarily; out-side forces of authority bring them into the organization.

All Organizations Have:
- _____: tasks are clearly defined and divided, and members understand their roles and expectations.
- _____: Organizations concentrate power in the hands of the few, who can then use that power to control the institution
- _____: Membership in the organization allows for the replacement of all roles, including leaders.

Types of Structures
- Within all groups, a _____ exists, though some may be more formal than others.
- _____refers to the explicit rules, goals, and guidelines of the organization. Charts, policy and procedure manuals and guidelines of the organization are formal.
- _____consist of friendships, allegiances, and loyalties among members of the organization. All organizations have informal structures to help them run smoothly

Bureaucracy
*If you have ever waited on line for hours at the DMV only to hear "I can't help you, you'll have to wait over there," then youhave had experience with a bureaucracy.*
- _____ are _____that are organized into hierarchy of _____.

Weber's Study of Bureaucracy
- _____proposed that no matter what a formal organization's purpose might be, all ideal bureaucracies display certain characteristics.

Weber – Formal Rationality
- For Weber, bureaucratization was a logical extension of formal rational thought.
- _____refers to the reasonable actions organizations and bureaucracies take to achieve goals in an effective way.

Weber's Iron Cage
- According to _____, any organization that grows large enough will inevitably strive toward _____and _____.
- Such a highly structured bureaucracy can cause members to feel like they are trapped in a dehumanizing "_____" (often referred to as _____).
- The "iron cage" turns workers into little more than _____accomplishing tasks.
- Weber proposed that this iron cage, while problematic from a personal level, is actually a good thing because it helps the organization _____ and place its needs above the needs of the individual.