Sociology 100

Oct 3 – Ch. 3

If born in a different society, how would I be different?

Nature vs. Nurture

Nature – inborn, biological factors

Nurture – result of social processes

Peter Berger from “Sacred Canopy”

- Test – throw with other hand (removes nurture from equation)

Understanding socialization allows a critique of social structure

Socialization – lifelong process of social interaction though which people internalize knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and norms necessary for effective participation in social life (parents train children to do this)

- Process of transferring culture from one generation to the next
- Bridge between individual and society
- Unsocialized children cases show socialization needed for “human” behaviour

How might a person develop if cut off from normal human contact at early age?

- Ferals – children raised by wild animals (controversial) – Oxana Malaya (neglected by alcoholic parents and raised by dogs in back yard)

Symbolic Interactionism (Charles Cooley)

- “I feel about me the way I think you think of me”
- Looking glass self
- Dad sees me as... friend sees me as ... bf sees me as ...
- Significant others – individual people who play a very important role in our lives
- Reference groups – groups that set a standard for behaviour, through a positive of negative example (both chess club and bad kids serve as a reference group)
- Generalized others – a moral “they” in society that sets guidelines for behaviour