

Unit 2 - Key Terms

Ascribed identity: Identity given to a person by others

Assimilation: Used here in the sense of cultural assimilation - the process by which a person or a group's language and/or culture come to resemble those of another group.

Avowed identity: How a person perceives his or her own self

Categorization: Classifying or sorting of perceived information into distinct groups

Cultural identity: Identity based on cultural membership; one's identification with and perceived acceptance into a larger culture group

Ethnicity: classification of people based on combinations of shared characteristics such as nationality, geographic origin, language, religion, ancestral customs, and tradition

Ethnocentrism: Favoring the ethnic group you belong to over all others

In-group: A group to which we belong

In-group bias: A pattern of favoring members of one's in-group over out-group members

Intolerance: Unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behavior that differ from one's own.

Microculture: An identifiable group of people who share a set of values, beliefs, and behaviors and who possess a common history and a verbal and nonverbal symbol system that is similar to but systematically varies from the larger, often dominant cultural milieu

Minority group: A subordinate group whose members have significantly less power and control over their own lives than do members of the dominant or majority group

Muted groups: Microcultures whose members are forced to express themselves (e.g., speak, write) within the dominant mode of expression

Out-group: A group to which we do not belong and which we often treat differently from those in our in-group

Pluralism: Used here in the sense of Cultural pluralism is a term used when smaller groups within a larger society maintain their unique cultural identities, and their values and practices are accepted by the wider culture

Prejudice: A rigid attitude based on group membership; involves making a prejudgment based on membership in a social category

Reference group: A group to which we look for meanings and identity

Social identity: The total combination of one's group roles; a part of the individual's self-concept that is derived from the person's membership in groups

Stereotype: A set of characteristics that a group or individuals in that group are assumed to have; a generalization about what people are like; an exaggerated image of their characteristics, without regard to individual attributes

Symbolic racism: Subtle and indirect form of racism, often expressed in US towards Blacks

White privilege: Societal privileges that benefit white people in western countries beyond what is commonly experienced by non-white people under the same social, political, or economic circumstances

Xenophobia: Fear of strangers