

## Social Structures Vocabulary Terms

**Social structure** – the underlying patterns of relationships in a group

**Status**- a position a person occupies within a social structure

**Ascribed Status**- a position that is neither earned nor chosen but assigned

**Achieved Status**- a position that is earned or chosen

**Master Status**- a position that strongly affects most other aspects of a person's life

**Role**- an expected behavior associated with a particular status

**Role Performance**- the actual behavior of an individual in a role

**Role Conflict**- condition in which the performance of a role in one status interferes with the performance of a role in another status

**Role Strain**- condition in which the roles of a single status are inconsistent or conflicting

**Society**- people living within defined territorial borders and sharing a common culture

**Hunting and Gathering Society**- a society that survives by hunting animals and gathering edible plants

**Horticultural Society**- a society that survives primarily through the growing of plants

**Pastoral Society**- a society in which food is obtained primarily by raising and taking care of animals

**Agricultural Society**- a society that uses plows and draft animals in growing food

**Industrial Society**- a society that depends on science and technology to produce its basic goods & services

**Urbanization**- the shifting of population from farms and villages to large cities

**Social Solidarity**- the degree to which a society is unified

**Postindustrial Society**- a society in which the economic emphasis is on providing services & information

**Group**- at least two people who have one or more goals in common and share common ways of thinking and behaving

**Social Category**- people who share a social characteristic

**Social Aggregate**- people temporarily in the same place at the same time

**Primary Group**- people who are emotionally close, know one another well, and seek one another's company

**Secondary Group**- people who share only part of their lives while focusing on a goal or task

**Reference Group**- group used for self-evaluation and the formation of attitudes, values, beliefs, and norms

**In-Group**- exclusive group demanding loyalty

**Out-Group**- group targeted by in-group for opposition, antagonism, or competition

**Cooperation**- interaction in which individuals or groups combine their efforts to reach a goal

**Conflict**- interaction aimed at defeating an opponent

**Social Exchange**- a voluntary action performed in the expectation of getting a reward in return

**Coercion**- interaction in which individuals or groups are forced to behave in a particular way

**Conformity**- behavior that matches group expectations