

# CHAPTER 13



## EDUCATION AND RELIGION

# Key Topics



- 13-1 What is Education?
- 13-2 Sociological Perspectives on Religion
- 13-3 Some Problems with U.S. Education
- 13-4 What is Religion?
- 13-5 Types of Religious Organization and Some Major World Religions
- 13-6 Religion in the United States
- 13-7 Sociological Perspectives on Religion

# HOW EDUCATION HAS CHANGED

$$\frac{1}{\phantom{27}}$$

$$\sqrt[3]{27}$$

Why are you here?

$$27^{-1/3} = X$$

$$1 / 3 = X$$

# What is Education?



# Education



- **Education:** a social institution that transmits attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, values, norms, and skills through formal systematic training
- **Schooling:** a narrower term referring to formal training and instruction in a classroom
- **Credentialing** – acquiring degrees

# Education



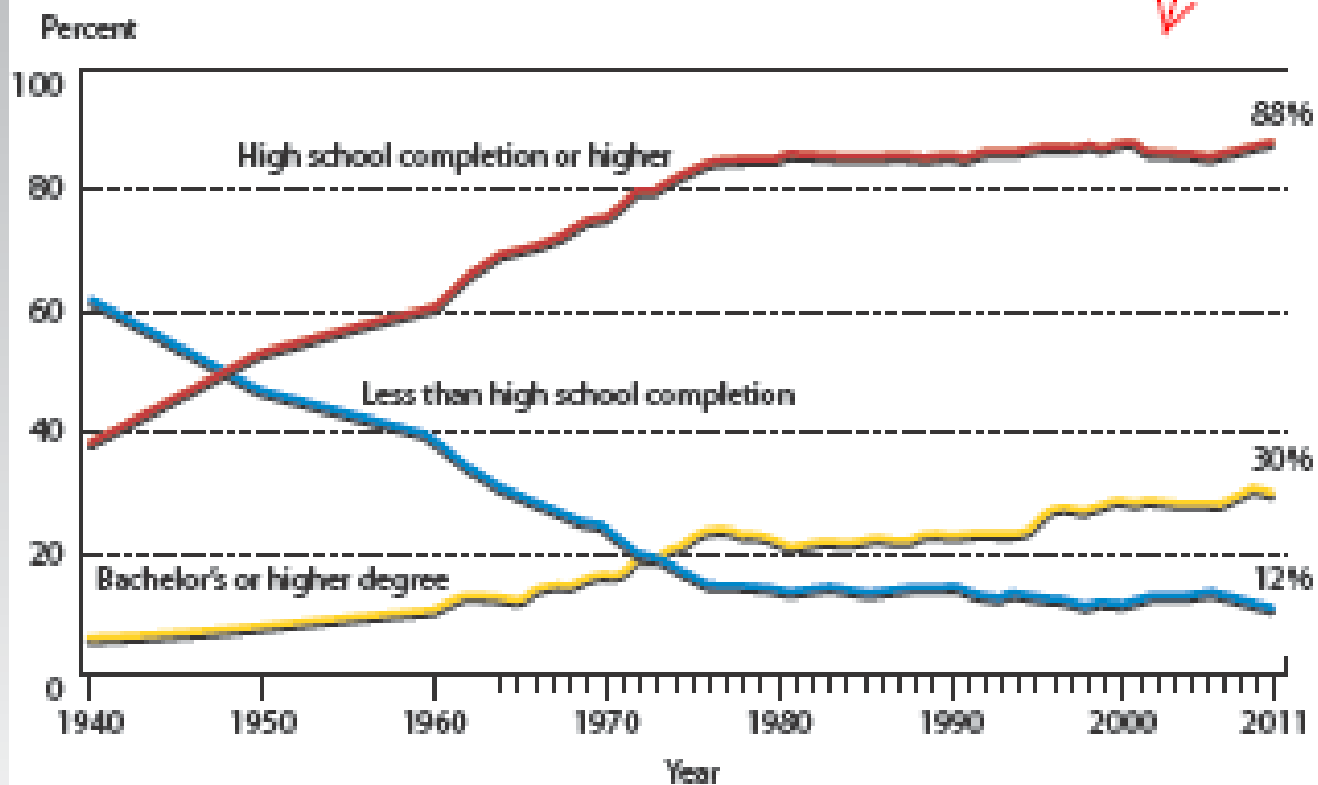
## Changes in U.S. Education:

- Expansion of universal education
- Flourishing community colleges
- Increase in student diversity
- Increase in public higher education

# Education



## U.S. Educational Attainment, 1940-2011



Source: Based on Snyder and Dillow 2010, Figure 4, and U.S. Census Bureau 2012, "Educational Attainment," Table 2.

# Perspectives on Education: Functionalism



**Functionalism** emphasizes the benefits of education.

- It looks at how education fits with the rest of society and help meet society's needs.



# Perspectives on Education: Functionalism



- **Manifest functions:**
  - Socializing children
  - Transmitting knowledge and culture
  - Increasing cultural integration
  - Encouraging cultural innovation
  - Allowing upward mobility and benefitting taxpayers

# Perspectives on Education: Functionalism



FIGURE 13.2

## Education Pays Off

Lifetime earnings for full-time, year-round workers (in millions of dollars)



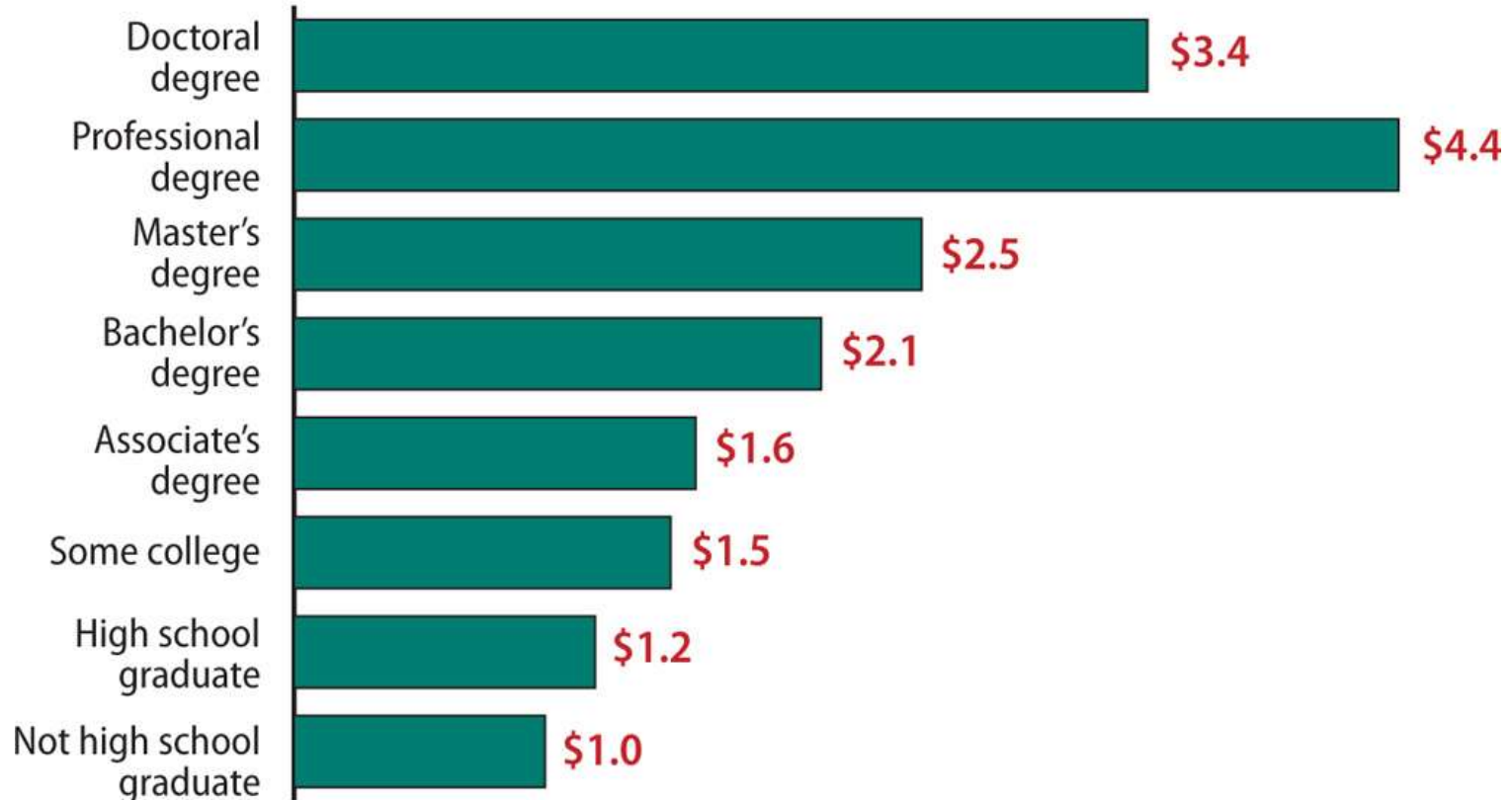
Source: Carnevale et al. 2011a, Figure 1.

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# Educational Payoff

Earnings over a lifetime for full-time, year-round workers (in millions of dollars)



Source: Day and Newburger 2002, Figure 3.

(c)2012 Cengage Learning

# Perspectives on Education: Functionalism



- **Latent Functions**
  - Providing child care
  - Matchmaking
  - Decreasing job competition
  - Creating social networks
  - Creating business opportunities

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



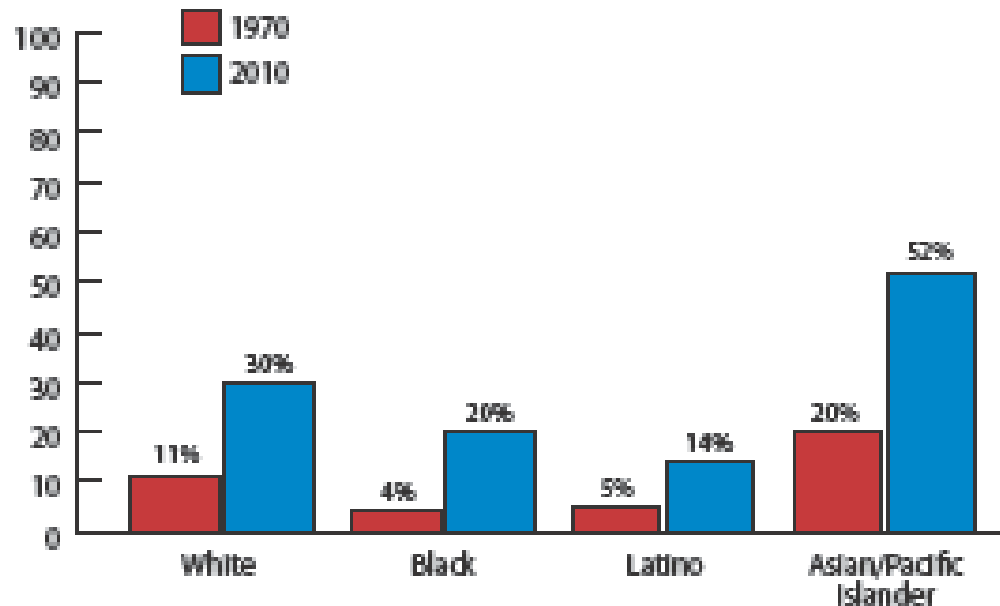
**Conflict theory** addresses the ways in which education perpetuates social inequality.

- It asks why education benefits some people more than others.
- How does this happen?
  - ✦ Manifest functions
  - ✦ Latent Functions
- Why does education benefit some people more than others?

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



## Attainment of College Degree or Higher, by Race and Ethnicity, 1970 and 2010



Note: Data is not available for American Indians/Alaska Natives for 1970 and 2010. In 2009, only 10 percent of this group had a Bachelor's degree.

Source: Based on Kim 2011, and U.S. Census Bureau 2012, Table 239.

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



- Educational attainment varies by race and ethnicity.
- Social class predicts educational attainment.

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



- Access to capital reinforces and reproduces the existing class structure.
  - *Economic capital*: income and monetary assets
  - *Cultural capital*: social assets such as education and attitudes
  - *Social capital*: social networks



# Perspectives on Education—Application



Is it economic, cultural, or social capital?

- Andrea has been familiar with the college experience her whole life. Her grandparents, parents, and siblings have all gone to college.
- Tina is the daughter of a college professor and knows many of the people on campus.
- Josh worked in construction for several years and saved his money so that he could use it to go to college.

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



- Schools use standardized tests and social control to maintain the status quo.
- **Gatekeeping:** those in power control access to education and jobs
  - IQ tests: **IQ**—an index of an individual's performance on a standardized test relative to the performance level of others
  - SAT
  - Advanced Placement (AP) classes

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



- The **hidden curriculum**:

Transmits nonacademic knowledge, values, attitudes, norms, and beliefs

- Schools in low-income and working-class neighborhoods stress obedience, following directions, and punctuality.
- Middle class schools teach bureaucratic process
- Elite private schools encourage leadership, creativity, and people skills.

# Perspectives on Education: Conflict



- **Credentialism** refers to the increasing demand for certificates and degrees.
  - As more people obtain a college degree, its value diminishes.
- **Legacies:** the children of alumni get into colleges regardless of their accomplishments or ability

# Perspectives on Education: Feminist



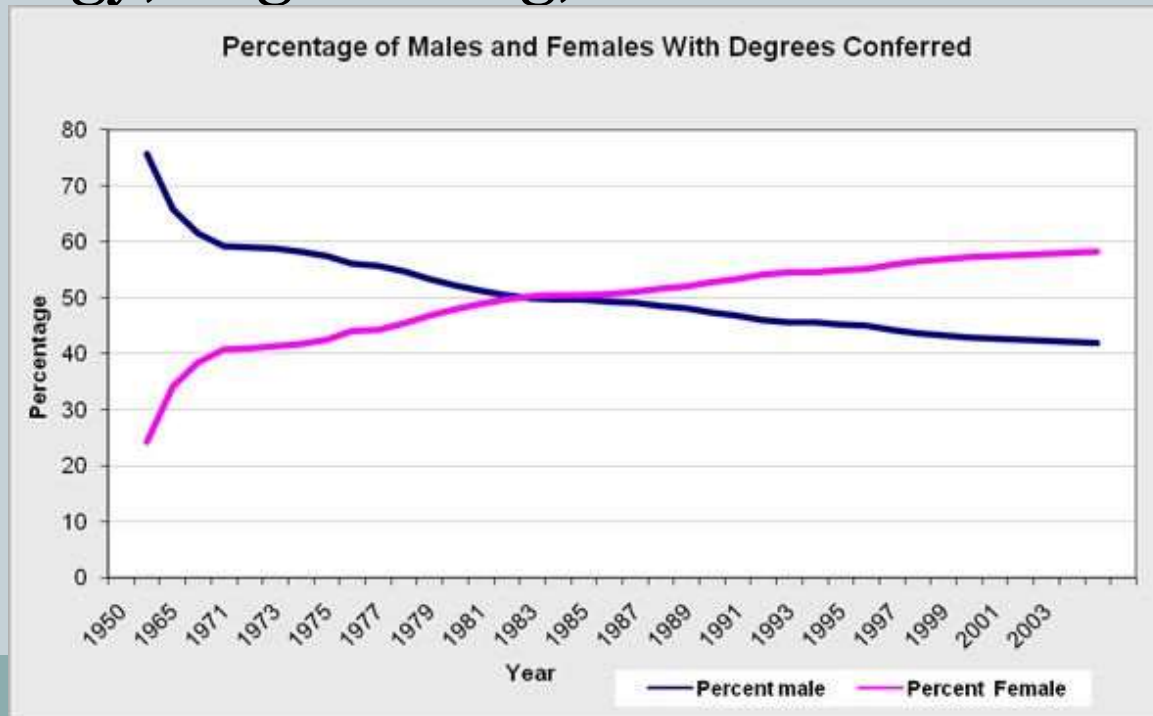
**Feminist theorists** consider how gender affects education.

- In almost every country, women's literacy rates lag behind those of men.
- In the U.S. social class and race/ethnicity create bigger gaps than gender.

# Perspectives in Education: Feminist



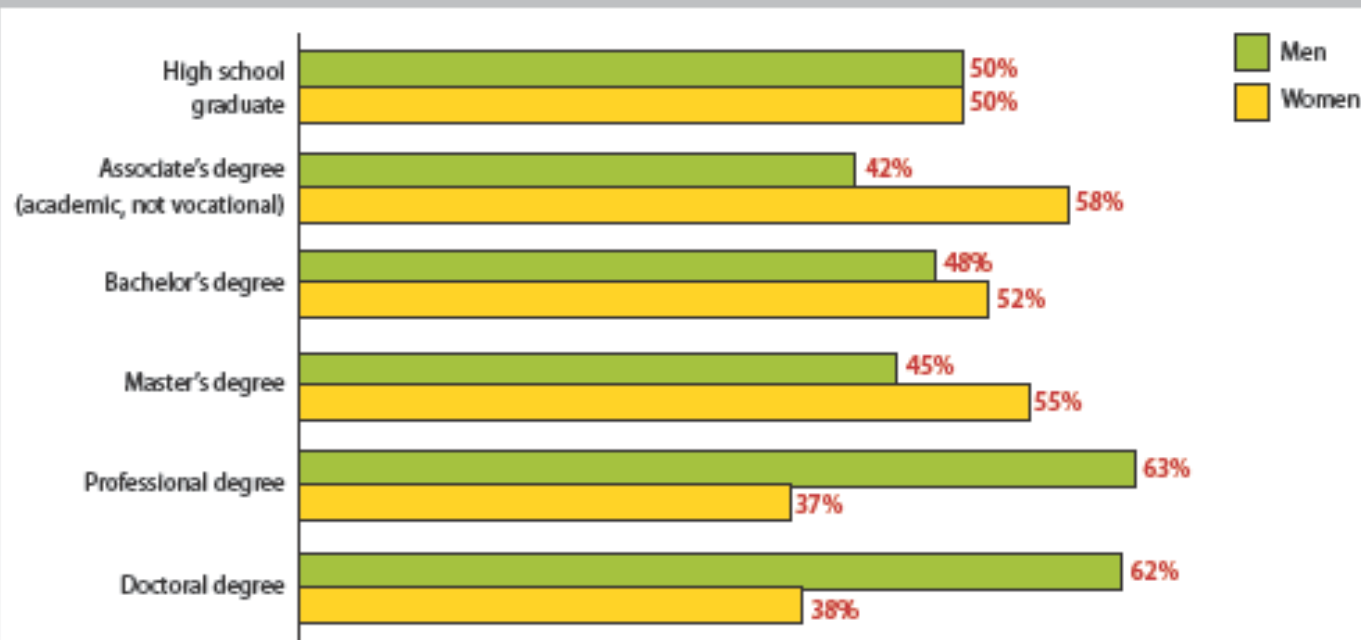
- U.S. women have higher college graduation rates than men.
- Women still lag behind in STEM courses: science, technology, engineering, and math.



# Perspectives on Education: Feminist



## Educational Attainment, 18 Years and Older, by Sex, 2011



Source: Based on data in U.S. Census Bureau, "Educational Attainment in the United States, 2011, Detailed Tables," Table 1.

# Perspectives on Education: Symbolic Interaction



**Symbolic interaction** theories consider how social contexts affect the process of education.



# Perspectives on Education: Symbolic Interaction



- **Tracking:** assigning students to specific educational programs and classes
  - Also called streaming or ability grouping
  - Sometimes based on stereotypes and results in labeling
  - Creates a **self-fulfilling prophecy**—students achieve what is expected of them

# Perspectives on Education: Symbolic Interaction



- **Student engagement:** how involved students are in their own learning
- Parental involvement has a strong and positive effect on student achievement.
- Low-income, minority students are the least likely to be engaged.
- Full-time college students study 14 hours per week compared with 24 in 1961.

# Perspectives on Education—Application



Identify the correct theoretical perspective:

- Education produces gender inequality.
- Education reinforces the social structure.
- Education results in self-fulfilling prophecies.

# Some Problems with U.S. Education



Technology has made cheating easier. Students often use cell phones to store data, to search for answers on the Internet, and to send text messages to friends for answers.

# where is next target after iraq

1iraq



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24,859



Uploaded by 1iraq on Nov 16, 2006  
where is next target after iraq

58 likes, 10 dislikes

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\\_fd5spmRtA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_fd5spmRtA)

# Education Problems



- Students from other countries outperform U.S. students in science and math.
- U.S. educational system ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the world.
- U.S. schools have shorter school days.
- Many U.S. schools suffer from inadequate funding.

## DO THE MATH

|                    | Students in Asia | American Students |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Hours / day        | <b>8</b>         | <b>5.5</b>        |
| School days / year | <b>220</b>       | <b>180</b>        |

# Education Problems



- According to most college faculty, students are not prepared for college.
- Many U.S. teachers teach out of their field.
- Public school teachers earn less than employees in other occupations.

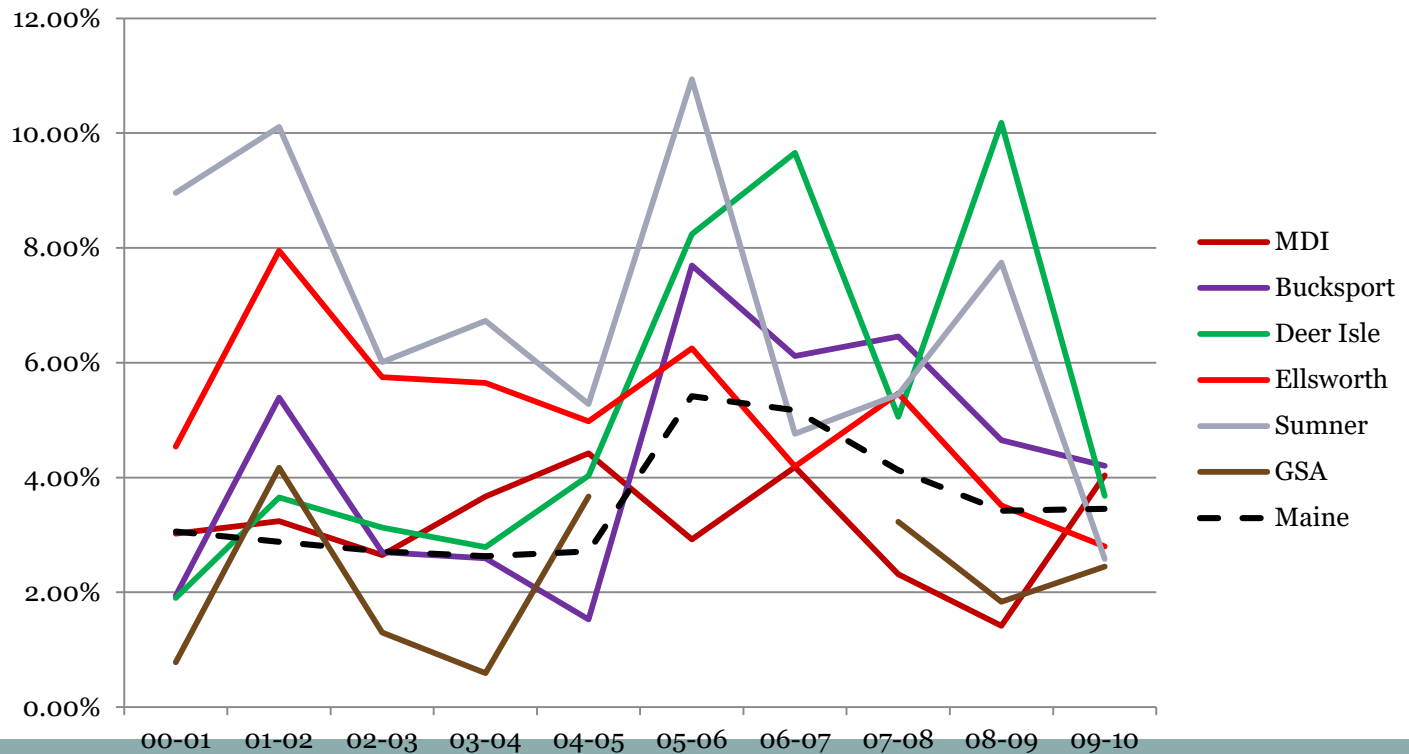
# Control Over Curricula

- **No Child Left Behind Act (2002)**
  - Required testing students in reading and math, school restructuring, and standards for teachers' qualification.
  - Math performance up
  - Reading performance unchanged
- **In some states, the Board of Education has considerable control over curriculum.**
  - Kansas Board of Education



# Dropping Out

- 10% of Americans ages 16 to 24 are high school dropouts.



# What is Religion?



# Religion



- Religion:** a social institution that involves shared beliefs, values, and practices based on the supernatural and unites believers into a community
- **Sacred:** anything that people see as mysterious, awe-inspiring, extraordinary
  - **Secular:** anything not related to religion
  - **Religiosity:** the ways that people demonstrate their religious beliefs
  - **Spirituality:** a personal quest connected to a reality greater than self

# Types of Religious Organizations and Some Major World Religions



# Religious Organization



- **Cult:** a religious group that is devoted to beliefs and practices that are outside of mainstream society; also called new religious movement
- Cults usually organize around a charismatic leader whom followers see as having exceptional or superhuman powers and qualities

# Religious Organization



- **Sect:** a religious group that has broken off from an established religion to form its own
- Sects usually are started by dissatisfied members of the original group.

# Religious Organization



- **Denomination:** a subgroup within a religion that has a common name, tradition, and identity
- Denominations usually accommodate themselves to the larger society.
- They usually see other groups as valid.

# Religious Organization



- **Church:** a large body of people belonging to an established religious group that has strong ties to the larger society
- Churches are typically bureaucratically organized.
- They usually have formal worship services.



# Religious Organization—Application



Identify the type of religious organization:

- Baptists have a common tradition and identity and are a subgroup of Christianity.
- Heaven's Gate was a small religious group in California organized by a charismatic leader.
- The Amish broke away from an established religion to form their own.

# Religious Organization



- Major Religions—**Christianity**
- The largest group worldwide

| RELIGION     | DATE OF ORIGIN | FOUNDER      | NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS | CORE BELIEFS   |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| Christianity | 0 C.E.         | Jesus Christ | 2.2 billion         | Jesus, the son of God, sacrificed his life to redeem humankind. Those who follow Christ's teachings and live a moral life will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Sinners who don't repent will burn in hell for eternity. |



# Religious Organization



- Major Religions—**Islam**
- Second largest group

Islam



600 C.E.

Muhammad

1.6 billion

God is creator of the universe, omnipotent, omniscient, just, forgiving, and merciful. Those who sincerely repent and submit (the literal meaning of *islam*) to God will attain salvation, while the wicked will burn in hell.

# Religious Organization



- Major Religions—**Hinduism**

Hinduism



Between 4000 and  
1500 B.C.E.

No specific  
founder

887 million

Life in all its forms is an aspect of the divine. The aim of every Hindu is to use pure acts, thoughts, and devotion to escape a cycle of birth and rebirth (*samsara*) determined by the purity or impurity of past deeds (*karma*).

# Religious Organization



- Major Religions—**Buddhism**

Buddhism



525 B.C.E.

Siddhartha  
Gautama


386 million

Life is misery and decay with no ultimate reality. Meditation and good deeds will end the cycle of endless birth and rebirth, and the person will achieve *nirvana*, a state of liberation and bliss.

# Religious Organization



- Major Religions—**Judaism**

|  |        |         |            |   |
|--|--------|---------|------------|---|
| Judaism<br> | 2000 † | Abraham | 15 million | God is the creator and the absolute ruler of the universe. God established a particular relationship with the Hebrew people. By obeying the divine law God gave them, Jews bear special witness to God's mercy and justice. |
|--|--------|---------|------------|---|

# Religion in the United States



# United States Religion



- About 92% of Americans believe in God.
- About 55% say that religion is important in their lives.
- About 40% of Americans attend religious services at least once a week.



# United States Religion



## Religious Affiliation in the United States, 2011

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>CHRISTIAN</b>                              | <b>78%</b>  |
| Protestant/Other Christian                    | 52.5%       |
| Catholic                                      | 23.6%       |
| Mormon  | 1.9%        |
| <b>OTHER RELIGIONS</b>                        | <b>4.5%</b> |
| Jewish  | 1.6%        |
| Muslim  | 0.5%        |
| Other non-Christian religion                  | 2.4%        |
| <b>UNAFFILIATED (None, Atheist, Agnostic)</b> | <b>15%</b>  |

# United States Religion



## Characteristics of Religious Participants:

- *Sex*: Women tend to be more religious.
- *Age*: Older Americans are more likely to be religious.
- *Race/ethnicity*: Whites are the least likely to be affiliated with a church.
- *Social class*: As income increases, the importance of religion decreases.

# United States Religion



**Secularization:** the process of removing institutions from the dominance or influence of religion

- Attendance at religious services has decreased.
- Fewer report religion is important in their lives.

# United States Religion



**Fundamentalism:** the belief in the literal meaning of a sacred text

- Increasing in the U.S. and worldwide

# United States Religion



- Some argue that the U.S. practices **civil religion** in which elements of nationalism and patriotism take on properties of the sacred.

# Sociological Perspectives on Religion



# Perspectives on Religion: Functionalism



**Functionalism** considers the benefits of religion.

- Belonging and identity
- Meaning, purpose, and emotional comfort
- Social services
- Social control

# Perspectives on Religion: Functionalism



- **Protestant ethic:** belief that hard work, diligence, self-denial and frugality would lead to economical success and salvation
- Max Weber argued that the rise of the Protestant ethic was necessary for the rise of capitalism.



# Perspectives on Religion: Functionalism



- Religion usually supports the status quo but can be used to push for social change.
  - Gandhi
  - Martin Luther King, Jr.

# Perspectives on Religion: Functionalism



- **Dysfunctions of religion:**
  - Conflict between groups
  - Justifying attacks
  - Allowing abuse
  - Increasing anxiety about death

# Perspectives on Religion: Conflict



**Conflict theorists** argue that religion promotes social inequality.

- Religion often promotes strife through the differentiation of “we” and “them.”
- Religion can promote prejudice and discrimination.
- Religion can encourage violence.

# Perspectives on Religion: Conflict



- Marx viewed religion as a form of false consciousness.
- **False consciousness:** an acceptance of a system that prevents people from protesting oppression

# Perspectives on Religion: Feminist



**Feminist theorists** argue that religion subordinates and excludes women.

- Most religions are patriarchal, emphasizing men's experiences and women as subordinate.
- Some argue that religious texts have been interpreted and manipulated in a patriarchal manner.

# Perspectives on Religion: Feminist



- Feminist scholars point out that women are excluded from leadership positions in the church.
- Many Protestant denominations are now allowing women to be clergy but they often are limited in power.

# Perspectives on Religion: Symbolic Interaction



**Symbolic interactionists** study the ways in which religion provides meaning in everyday life.

- Religion is a social product that is taught through symbols, rituals, and beliefs.

# Perspectives on Religion: Symbolic Interaction



- **Symbol:** something that stands for something else
- **Ritual:** formal and repeated behavior, also called a *rite*.
- **Belief:** conviction about what people think is true



# Perspectives on Religion—Application



Is it a symbol, ritual, or belief?

- Prayer is important.
- First communion and confirmation reinforce a child's place in the church.
- Judaism is represented by a star.

# Chapter Review



1. What is education?
2. Distinguish among the different sociological explanations of education.
3. Discuss the current problems in U.S. education.
4. What is religion?
5. Distinguish among the types of religious organizations.

# Chapter Review



6. What are the major religions of the world?
7. Describe the state of religion in the U.S.
8. Distinguish among the sociological explanations of religion.