**Chapter 2 Understanding prejudices and its causes**

**-prejudice is learned**

**-prejudice is an attitude, not an action**

**A.conceptions and misconceptions of prejudice**

**1.What are examples of misconceptions about prejudice?**

**-prejudice is a stronger feeling, but is is always negative, and it always refers to a group of people**

**-prejudice predisposes us to behave negatively toward certain others because of a group to which they belong**

**2.How widespread is prejudice?**

**-today nations around the world are being forced to confront historic prejudices because of economic globalization and population migrations that have created major demographic changes**

**-in a global economy requiring functional and respectful relationships between nations, prejudice can be a destructive force both in the world and in individual societies, especially diverse societies**

**3.How are prejudices reflected in American media?**

**-magazine advertisements don’t depict groups accurately**

**-Native Americans are almost never portrayed as contemporary people but as nineteenth century warriors (almost never as professionals)**

**-many people don’t depict these advertisements as stereotypes because these images are so familiar that they seem not to be stereotypes at all, but portraits of reality**

**-most Muslims are portrayed as evil terrorists**

**4.What examples of prejudice exist in our language?**

**-black/white syndrome-we have negative patters for references to blacks: black hearted, black day, black deed ect…**

**-dominant groups keep a monopoly of defining others , and it is their labels that we see in dictionaries**

**-some prejudice is not always obvious “Where there’s a will, there’s a way”…Does this blame the victim providing an ethical escape for others…are poor people responsible for their poverty???**

**-you can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements**

**-we have jokes based on racial, ethnic, gender, or other prejudices**

**5.How does gender prejudice in our language promote sexist attitudes?**

**-the word “he” or “guys” may refer to someone of indeterminate gender**

**6.What sexist terms for men could be considered derisive or corruptive?**

**-some language may be derisive but toward men can be considered a compliment like “bastard**

**-opposite such as “sissy” says a man is not feminine**

**B.consequences and causes of prejudices**

**-verbal abuse-against others that occurs among friends or results in name calling**

**-physical assault**

**-extreme violence-includes the desire to commit murder**

**-genocide-systematic and deliberate extermination of a nationality or racial or ethnic group**

**-limiting our interactions-with people form racial or ethnic groups other than our own**

**-engage or condone discrimination-in such areas as education, employment, or housing**

**-in the 1960s courts ordered urban school districts to desegregate, many school administrators responded by busing students to different schools called “white flight” this is starting to happen again with open enrollment**

**1.Is prejudice the main cause of discrimination in society?**

**-studies have reported little decrease in discrimination**

**2.How does the interest theory explain discrimination?**

**-interest theory-describes discrimination resulting from people protecting their power and privilege**

**3.How is self-interest involved in the internal colonialism theory?**

**-this discrimination is an analysis of how privilege was created in the U.S. when the dominant group which was white Europeans exploited subordinate groups to assume control of America’s resources such as land and slave labor**

**4.How is discrimination explained by the institutionalized discrimination theory?**

**-this discrimination describes intuitional policies and practices that have different and negative effects on subordinate groups**

**-it regulates regulations, informal rules and roles, social positions**

**-discrimination today may be unintentional**

**-example given after work, women may go home to take care of children, men go out and hang out and talk about work and each other’s positions making their cooperation at work appear more efficient than women**

**5.What factors promote the development of prejudice**

**-elitism-belief that the most able people succeed in society and form a natural aristocracy while the least able enjoy the least success because they are flawed in some way or lack the necessary qualities to be successful**

**-unsuccessful people are often held responsible for their failure**

**-zero-sum attitude-highly competitive orientation toward power based on the assumption that the personal gains of one individual means a loss for someone else**

**-the causes of prejudice may come from the following assumptions**

**a.personal frustration**

**b.uncertainty about a person based on lack of knowledge or experience with the group to which they belong**

**c.threat to one’s self-esteem**

**d.competition among individuals in our society to achieve their goals in relation to status, wealth, and power**

**6.How does frustration cause prejudice?**

**-causes tension to increase until a person chooses to act on the frustration to alleviate the tension**

**-aggression action may not alleviate frustration but instead may exacerbate it**

**7.What do stereotypes have to do with uncertainty and how do they cause prejudice?**

**-in the U.S. historically, schools have implemented curricula reflecting perspectives, contributions, and experiences of the dominant group while neighborhoods are often segregated by race or social class**

**-people often do not have the opportunity to learn from different racial and ethnic groups**

**which results in people often believing in stereotypes**

**8.How does threat to self-esteem cause prejudice?**

**-in the U.S. people are encouraged to develop self-esteem by comparing themselves with others**

**9.How does competition for status, wealth, and power cause prejudice?**

**-competition fosters prejudicial attitude**

**-working tougher to achieve a common goal reduces the hostility and results in less prejudice**

**C.The perpetuation of prejudice**

**-people want to be successful and will try to promote their own self-interests**

**-when members of one group believe that individuals from another group are becoming more successful than they are, they may become angry at those individuals**

**1.How are prejudices perpetuated?**

**-major factor is the tendency to rationalize prejudices and the negative behaviors prejudices promote**

**2.denial rationalizations**

**-refusing to recognize that there are problems in our society resulting from prejudices and discrimination**

**-one common denial is that there is a natural for women and men to do some jobs better than the opposite sex which gives rationalizations why men and women hold certain jobs better….what do you think?**

**3.victim-blaming rationalizations**

**-rejects the notion that prejudice and discrimination are problems in society even though they admit that problems exist**

**-the problems that they identify are problems that are typical deficiencies or flaws in members of minority groups**

**-they focus on groups being harmed by societal prejudices and insists that society doesn’t need to change…it is the group that should change**

**-victim blamers urge individuals to stop being so sensitive or so pushy to work harder or stop complaining**

**4.avoidance rationalizations**

**-recognize the problems in society as stemming from prejudice and discrimination**

**-even though a person may admit that there is a problem, the problem will not be addressed**

**-a false solution may be given that does not really address the problem**

**-an argument may be mad that distracts attention from the issue or question being discussed**

**-conservatives may give solutions that tend to concentrate on perceived flaws in victims of prejudice rather than addressing the prejudice and discrimination that create the problems**

**-liberals may acknowledge and express sympathy for the problems faced by oppressed groups but never do anything to address the causes of the problems**