**Chapter 1 Understanding ourselves and others: clarifying values and language**

**-we need to understand all kinds of diversity-including opinions, appearances, values, and beliefs**

**beliefs-inferences about reality**

**Attitudes-clusters of related beliefs**

**Values-combination of attitudes which generate action or deliberate choice to avoid action**

**I.role of values in human differences**

**-values determine our choices and are the foundation for actions we choose to take or to avoid**

**1.What is the relationship between a person’s values and behaviors?**

**-there is a consistent inconsistency between what we say we value and our actual behavior**

**-the tendency for Americans to say we believe in a certain value and then engage in contradictory behavior is a curious and yet consistent pattern**

**-there are nine values that Americans perceive as defining our culture**

**1.worth and dignity of the individual**

**2.equality**

**3.inalienable rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness**

**4.rights to freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, and private association**

**5.consent of the governed**

**6.majority rule**

**7.rule of law**

**8.due process law**

**9.community and national welfare**

**-most of these values are regularly contradicted by American behavior**

**2.What inconsistencies exist between American values and American behaviors?**

**-individuality is emphasized, however, American society quite consistently has demanded conformity**

**-the influence of peers on individual behavior illustrates the seductive power of conformity**

**-people say they have certain beliefs but than act another way to fit in with a group**

**-what do you think about “all men are created equal”???**

**-How many people who believed in the Declaration of Independence owned slaves?**

**-even though our rule of law says that the justice system will be fair to everyone, does power and wealth have an influence??**

**3.Are values individually chosen or are we taught to accept certain values?**

**-the way American values are taught plays a major role in the values we hold**

**A.set an example-job of teachers and parents??**

**B.rules and regulations to promote certain behaviors in children and youth—punctuality forces to teachers to punish children with tardies**

**C.persuade or convince others to accept certain values**

**D.appeal to conscience in which a parent or teacher may challenge a child or youth who seems to advocate an inappropriate value or belief**

**E.limited choices-by limiting choices, parents intend to manipulate children into making acceptable decisions**

**F.inspire people to embrace certain values by sponsoring retractions with inspirational or motivational speakers**

**G.religious or cultural dogma –meaning to accept beliefs without questioning them**

**4.How does the way values are taught explain the inconsistency between values and behavior?**

**-all of the values A-G are based on the assumption that certain prescribed values are to be taught and that the individuals being instructed should accept them**

**-indoctrination-the intent is to dictate cultural values that must be accepted rather than assist people in deciding what is right and wrong**

**5.Why should anyone be concerned about inconsistencies between values and behavior?**

**-if we understand our values and consistently act on them, it is more likely that our choices will reflect our highest ideals**

**-at work, diversity is one of the biggest things that we work on**

**-the contrast between what happens at work and takes place at home represents an inconsistency that could call into the question the sincerity of our commitment to diversity**

**6.should parents rather than schools teach values to children??(you tell me)**

**-both parents and schools in America are expected to contribute to the development of children’s value systems**

**-consciously we teach what we know, but unconsciously we teach who we are**

**7.What problems can interfere with making ethical decisions?**

**-one of the main problems in making ethical decisions about human differences is confusion concerning the language employed to address those differences**

**-how often do misused words generate misleading thoughts? (facebook!)**

**-using inaccurate or ambiguous language creates problems when we are addressing sensitive uncomfortable issues**

**II.Defining terms related to human differences**

**Prejudices-negative attitudes based on prejudgment of a group**

**Bigotry-involves hatred and represents a harsher form of prejudgment against a person or group**

**1.How do negative attitudes develop?**

**-we learn various biases, stereotypes, and prejudices as we grow up**

**-a stereotype assumes that individuals possess certain human traits simply because they are members of a particular group**

**2.What is the difference between race, ethnicity, and nationality?**

**-race is a social reality dictated by the color of one’s skin, even though skin color as a basis for human categorization is absurd**

**-in claiming the unity of the human race, we resist the unsavory assumption of higher and lower races**

**-ethnicity is based on cultural differences and to the historic origins of an individual’s family**

**-most Americans identify more than one ethnic group as part of their heritage and for that reason ethnicity may have little meaning because of a lack of strong cultural identification with one of those groups**

**-do Native Americans ethnicity generally refer to tribal affiliation?**

**-nationality refers to the nation in which one has citizenship**

**3.What are minority groups and why are they called minority groups?**

**-minority group members posses limited power compared to members of a dominant group**

**-it is possible for the minority group to be larger than a dominant group because it is the group’s lack of power that defines it**

**-a person in a minority group must overcome obstacles which are handicapping conditions related to her or his group identification based on such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, or disability**

**-diversity refers to the presence of human beings perceived or actual differences based on a variety of human characteristics**

**4.how have minority groups been perceived by the majority?**

**-the majority group has created derogatory names for members of minority groups**

**-when a dominant group has the power to label a subordinate group, others will consistently associate that label with individuals from the subordinate group**

**5.How have labels been used to define and control subordinate groups?**

**-derisive labels-which reflect a sense of contempt or ridicule based on factors such as race, class, disability, sexual orientation, and gender suggest the extent to which prejudices exist(think of nasty words you have heard)**

**6.What is the impact of labels on individuals who are labeled?**

**-young children are only minimally aware of skin color and often unaware of race**

**-true racial awareness does not tend to become a significant issue until they are 8 or 9 years old**

**-sometimes members of a subordinate group believe and internalize myths, stereotypes, and prejudices expressed about their group by the dominant group**

**-individuals in the dominant group are also damaged because boundaries are created**

**7.how are negative bureaucratic terms as harmful as social derisive terms**

**-terms such as hillbilly can be regional but terms such as white trash can become widespread and often cover culturally deprived, culturally disadvantaged, welfare households, inner-city residents ect…**

**-they send negative messages**

**8.how has our society responded to social problems experienced by minority groups?**

**-exceptionalistic perspective-focuses on individuals and it perceives all problems**

**-universalistic perspective-views social problems as systemic, beginning in fundamental social structures within a community or a society**