



These notes represent a detailed interpretation of the professor's lecture. They are not a transcript of the lecture. TakeNote® is best used as a supplement to your own notes, not as a substitute.

Lecture Date: Thursday, January 31, 2008

Announcements:

- Be sure to take note of the critical ideas in chapter 2 of your textbook pertaining to the difference between “micro” and “macro” theories; “disengagement” theory versus “activity and “continuity” theories; and the “modernization” theory.
- I. Quick review of the critical theories discussed in Chapter 2:
- A. **Micro** theories address *individual* aging.
 - B. **Macro** theories address *social* aging.
 - C. **Modernity** is *scientific thinking*. It represents a set of related ideas and trends
 1. Complex trends arguing for *rationalization* first became evident in 18th Century Europe and N. America.
 2. Main characteristics of modernity include the following:
 - a) The pursuit of a higher standard of living through the acquisition of material goods.
 - b) The **establishment of science/technology** as a way of understanding the world.
 - c) The rationalization of **work, school, or government**.
 3. Social impacts of modernity include the following:
 - a) The technical **specialization of work**.
 - (1) For example, if you were to be a college professor, you'd move to a center of learning (an apprenticeship or monastery) at a very early age (e.g., 12 years old) and learn from them with the expectation that you'd take over for them when they die/retire.
 - (2) If you were to become a lawyer, you'd apprentice in a courtroom or with another lawyer and that was your training.
 - b) The rise of the *professions* as bodies of technical knowledge.
 - c) The emphasis on rapid **communication**. In order to remain *productive*, people have to communicate **rapidly and accurately**.
 - d) **Universal literacy**: To fit into a technical, scientific economy, people had to be literate, or at the very least be able to follow written instructions. Modernity theory expected only *men* to become universally literate.
 - e) **Specialized education tracks**. Universities develop specialized education tracks for pre-med or pre-law students. Also included are PhD programs at Universities.
 - f) **Mass transportation** to speed migration and facilitate employment. This allowed people to travel from rural living areas to urban areas to find work.
 - g) Encouragement of political democracy.
 - h) Individualistic economic and social ideologies.