

# GCH103 - Impact of Global Change on NE's Coastal Environment

## Today's Topics

### Social Institutions



# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

**Society:** collection of *interdependent* people:  
share a common goal—  
most basic level, **survival**.  
(Remember: *we are social creatures*.)

Fundamental task of any society is to survive as a collectivity.

**What do we need for a society to survive?**

# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

**What do we need for a society to survive?**

Think-Pair-Share

In groups of 2 or 3, make a list of 3 “things” a society needs to survive.

# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

## Basic Survival Needs of a Society

*Produce and distribute* goods and services necessary for survival.

*Replace* those that die (bring new people into the society - we are not immortal).

*Care* for people who cannot take care of themselves.

*Train* people to produce the goods and services necessary for survival.

*Establish rules* (laws) and rewards and punishments to ensure cooperation.

*Provide answers* to philosophical and ethical questions, to  
*provide motivation* to live together harmoniously.

# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

Society organizes the accomplishment of these activities.

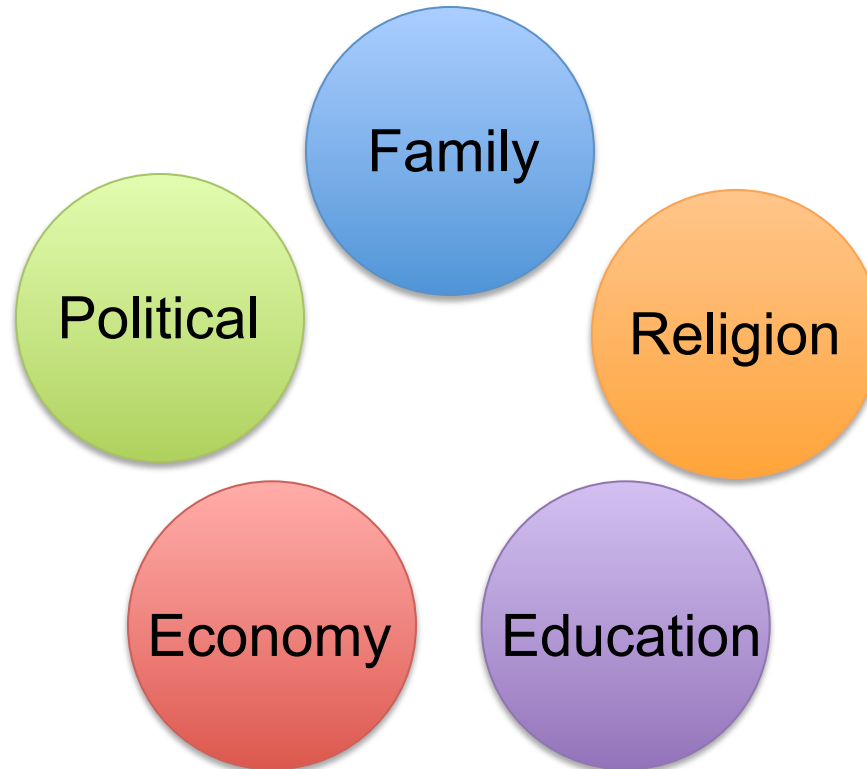
This organization of society is what we call **social institutions**:

*a widely agreed upon (understood) set of practices that a group of people develops in order to live together that gets something done that needs to be done for social survival.*

*(it's what a society DOES to survive)*

# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

The major social institutions are:



Social institutions are the building blocks of society.

# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

## Societal Needs

*Produce and distribute* goods and services necessary for survival.

*Replace* those that die. Bring new people into society. (we are not immortal).

*Care* for people who cannot take care of themselves.

*Train* people to produce the goods and services necessary for survival.

*Establish rules* (laws) and rewards and punishments to ensure cooperation.

*Provide answers* to philosophical and ethical questions, to *provide motivation* to live together harmoniously.

## Institution(s)



Economy



Family



Family & Political?



Education & Economy



Political



Religion & Political

# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

Additional interesting ideas about social institutions & practices:

- Societal institutions persist over time, yet are dynamic: institutions are always changing.
- Include rules for sanctioning people who don't follow the practices,
- Constrain some people and offer opportunities to others (they impact people's lives in different ways),
- Disagreement among members of the group about the practices,
- Institutions can create and maintain inequality.



# Social Institutions: A basic sociological concept

And finally,

Institutions are interdependent:

That is, *changes in one institution can and usually will create changes in other institutions.*



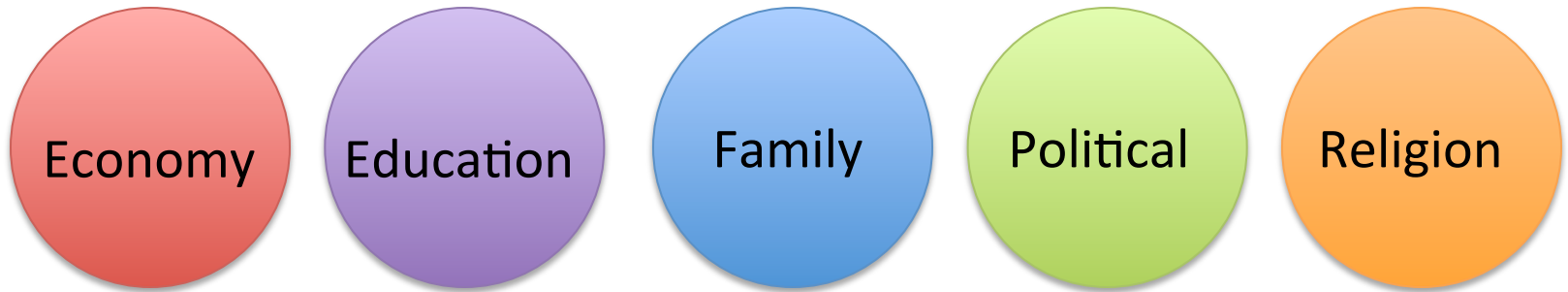
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM>

# Summary of Key Points

## What is a Society ?

- collection of *interdependent* people:
- share a common goal—
- most basic level => **survival**.

## Societal Institutions



## Societal Institutions

- Building blocks of society
- Institutions are interdependent
- Institutions & interdependence change with time (and region?)

# Education Institution

Static or Dynamic?

Major Trends?

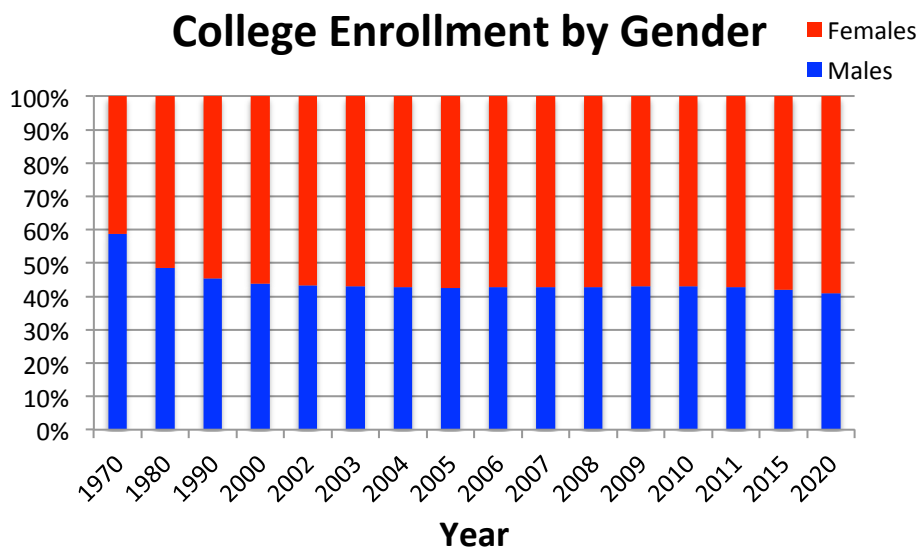
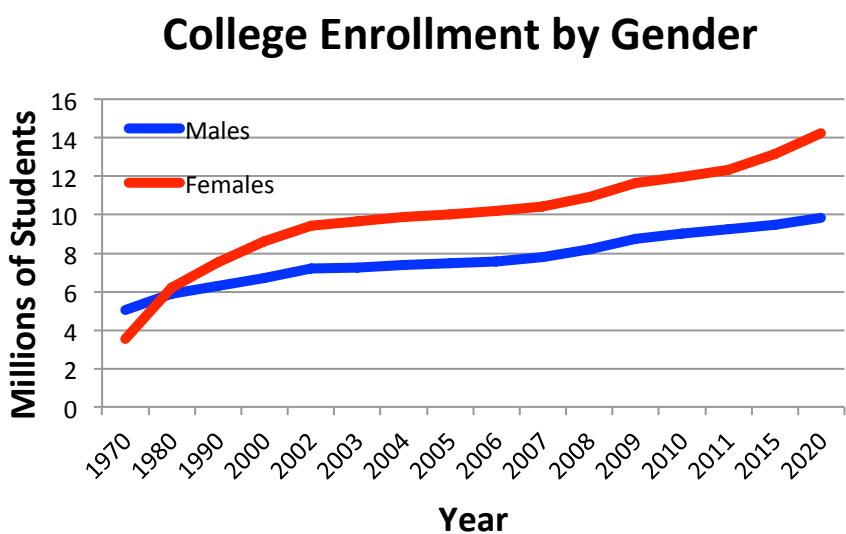
Driving Factors?

# Education Institution

Static or Dynamic?

Major Trends?

Driving Factors?



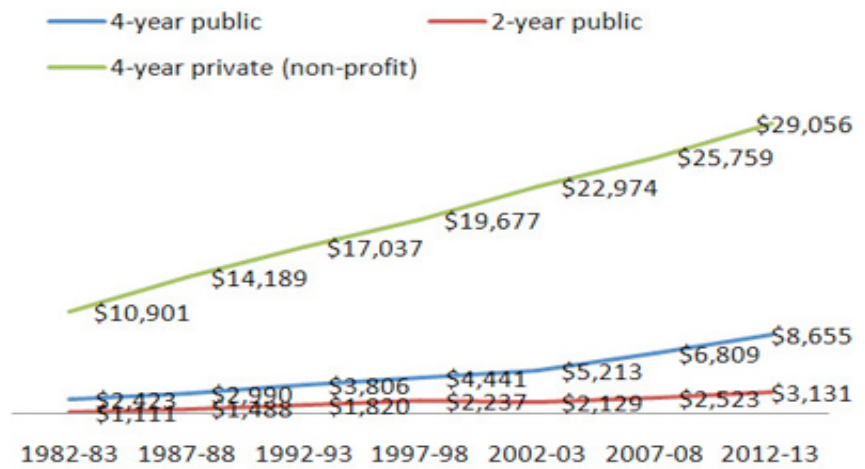
# Education Institution

Static or Dynamic?

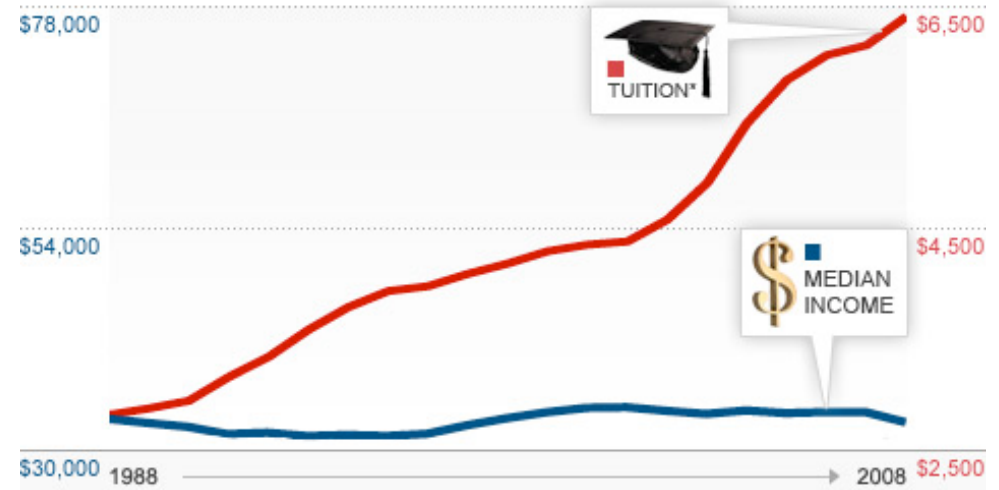
Major Trends?

Driving Factors?

Annual Tuition Rates



AMERICAN INCOMES CAN'T KEEP UP WITH TUITION HIKES



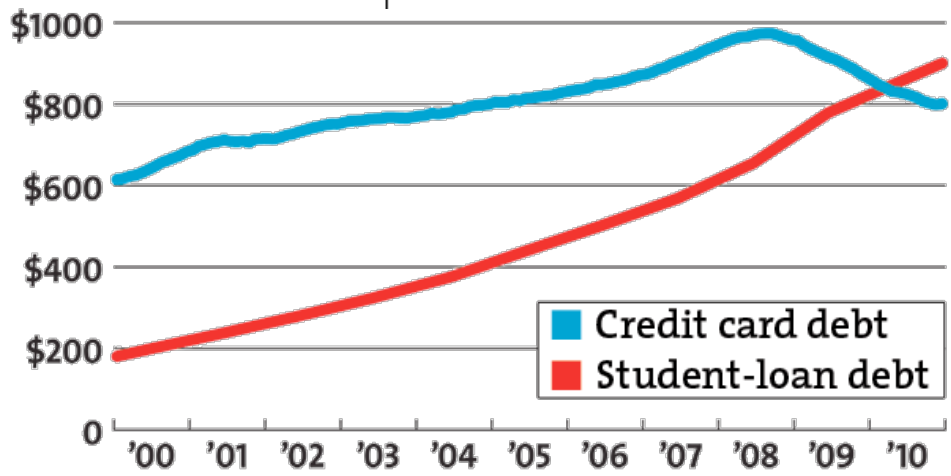
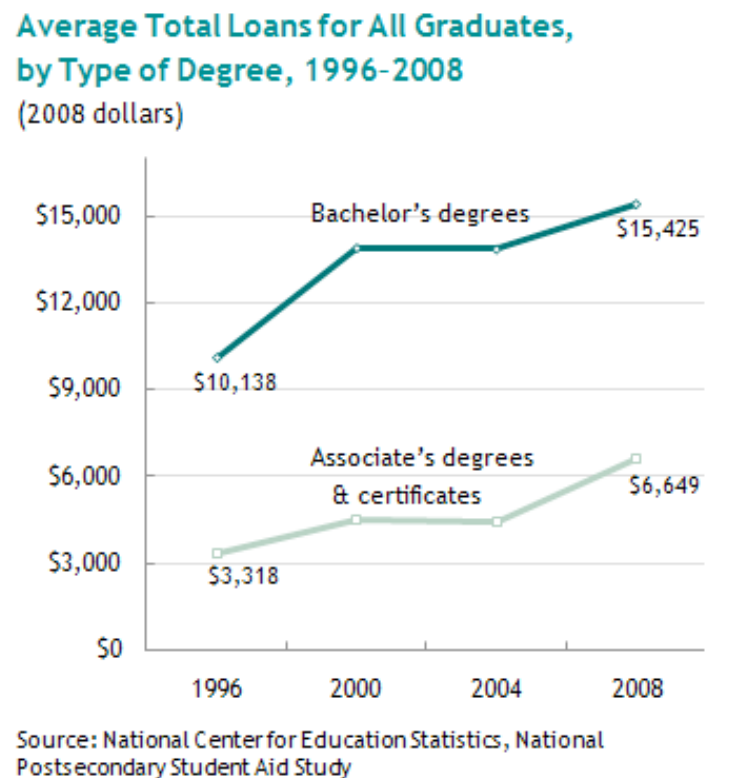
\*TUITION AND FEES AT 4-YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGE. SOURCE: IRS AND COLLEGE BOARD DATA, ADJUSTED TO 2008 DOLLARS

# Education Institution

Static or Dynamic?

Major Trends?

Driving Factors?



# Education Institution

Static or Dynamic?

Major Trends?

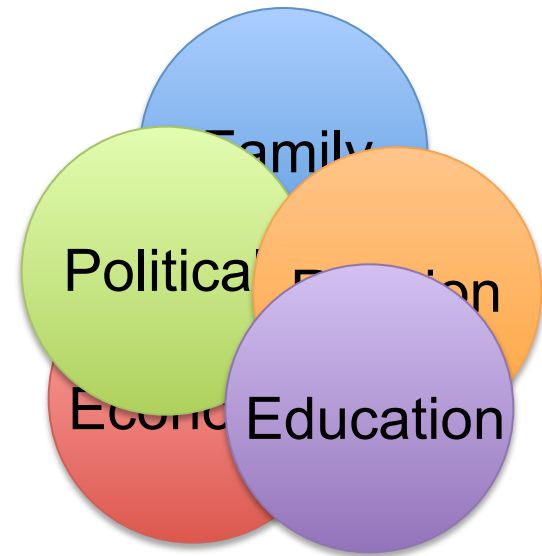
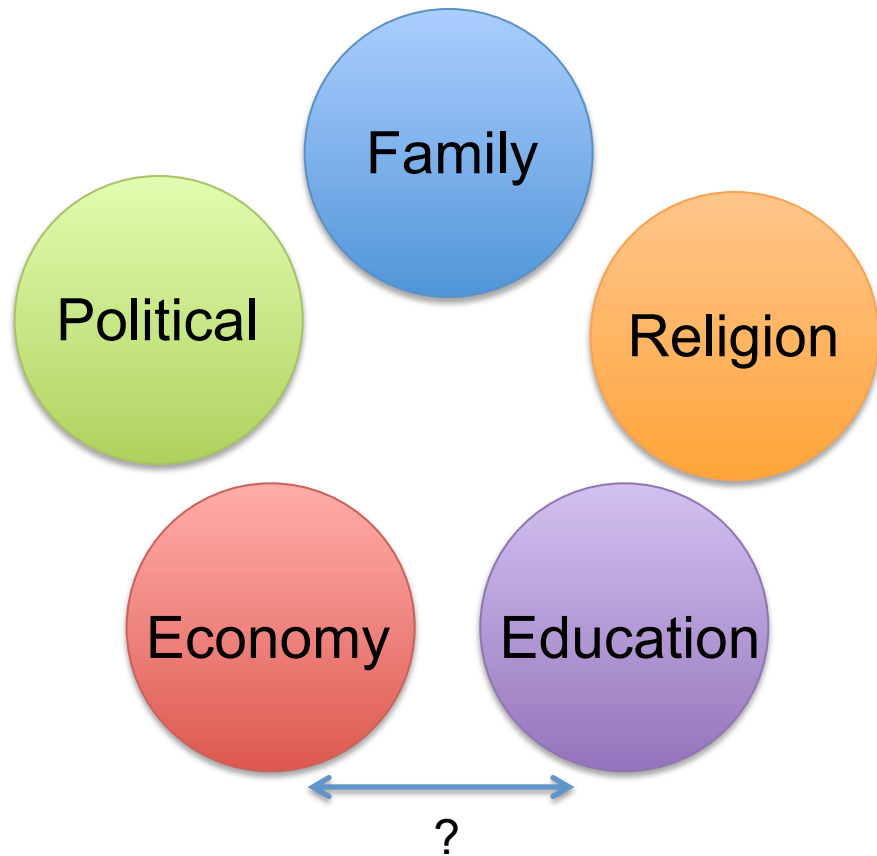
Driving Factors?

Gender Trends

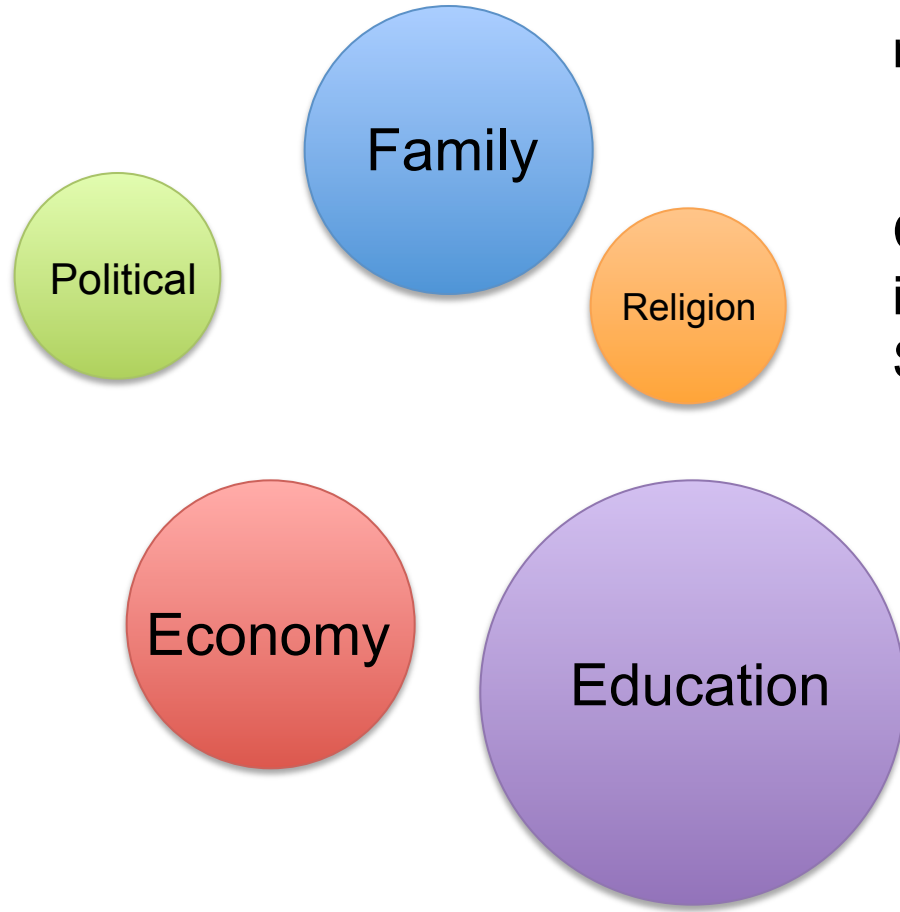
Tuition/Student Debt Trends



# Social Institutions: Interdependence



# Social Institutions: Interdependence



Which of the Social Institutions is the most and least important to you?

Create a list of at least 5 interactions between the various Social Institutions in your own life.

# Social Institutions: Interdependence

## Philosophies for a Good Society

- A    Emphasis on individual initiative  
Gov't causes more problems than it solves  
“Pull yourself up by your bootstraps”
  
- B    Emphasis on collective or group initiative  
Gov't can solve many problems that individuals cannot  
“We are all in this thing together”

Which “Good Society” model do you favor?

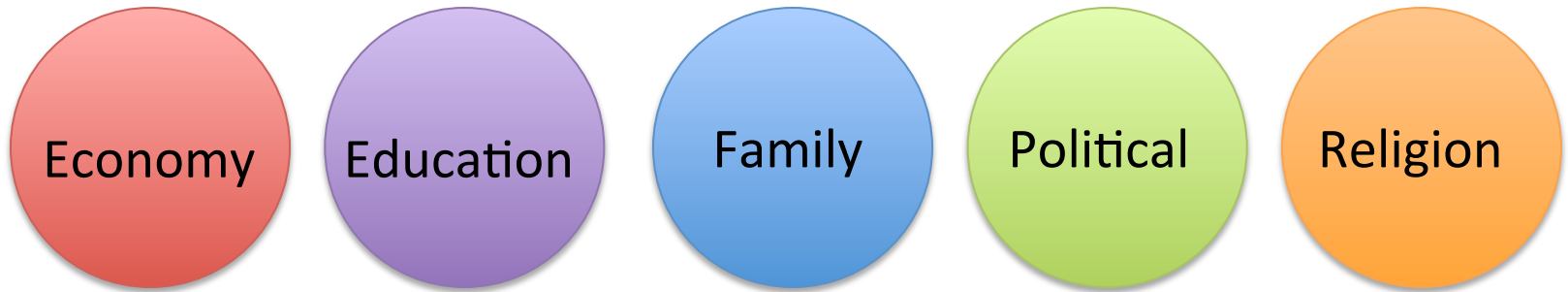
Why?

# Summary of Key Points

## What is a Society ?

- collection of *interdependent* people:
- share a common goal—
- most basic level => **survival**.

## Societal Institutions



## Societal Institutions

- Building blocks of society
- Institutions are interdependent
- Institutions & interdependence change with time (and region?)