**Thinking about your social context…**

The following questions concern some of the topics we will be discussing in this course. The goal of this activity is to get you thinking about what ideas and experiences you bring to the subject matter, as well as to hear how your classmates may differ in their responses to the same questions. First jot down your initial response, then prepare to discuss with a small group.

1. What is your outfit communicating about you today?
2. How have you been disciplined at different stages of your life? What rewards and punishments were involved?
3. Under what circumstances, if any, would you use violence to achieve a goal?
4. Who has the most power in your family? What is the source of their power (ex. gender, personality)
5. How would you feel if your son wanted to play with Barbie dolls? Your daughter?
6. What is the most peculiar aspect of American culture?
7. How similar are your religious beliefs to those of your closest friends?
8. What do you think are the most important laws in our society?
9. To what degree do you believe in the accuracy of stereotypes? How often do you use them?
10. Why are you still in school when you could have legally dropped out at age 16?
11. Has there been any upward mobility (change in social class) in your family over time?
12. How often do you question what you are told is true by an authority figure?