

Monday 9 January 2012

- Be prepared to discuss Matt Ansfield's lecture.
 - What was the thesis?
 - How did he back up his thesis with examples from Milgram?
 - What other studies did he introduce in support of his thesis?
- Re-read chapter 6-9. We will be discussing all the variations of the experiment. Be prepared to respond to questions and contribute to discussion on the following topics:
 - Which experiments resulted in the greatest level of obedience? Why? Review the tables for all the experiments presented in chapters 4, 6, 8, and 9. Put the experiments into a ranked list based on the percentage of subjects who went all the way to 450 V. Does this list help you interpret the results of Milgram's experiments? In addition, are there particular shock levels other than 450 V where a large number of subjects broke off (disobeyed)? Can you explain those clusters of break off points?
 - The experiments can be broadly classified as testing the effects of two variables on obedience: 1) the proximity (or immediacy of the perceived suffering) of the victim/learner and 2) the distance and/or legitimacy of the authority. Group as many experiments as you think fit into one of these two categories and look at the results (percentage of subjects going to 450 V). What do the results tell us?
 - What is your reaction to the deception used by Milgram on his subjects? Do you think this experiment was unethical? How do you think you would feel as a subject who ended up going to 450 V? Is there any chance that subjects of Milgram's experiments might have suffered lasting harm?
 - Is it important how the subjects were recruited and how their ages, occupations, classes, etc. were distributed?
 - Why does Milgram include a sample of subject profiles and quotations from post-experiment interviews? Does this small sample give you any insights into the factors that might lead a person to disobey? What do you make of Milgram's descriptions of the subjects?

Wednesday 11 January 2012

- Re-read chapters 10-15 and the appendices and be prepared to discuss the main points of these sections of the book. We will conclude our discussion of *Obedience to Authority* on this day.