**Glossary of Key Terms**

**Sexual revolution**: The radical and ongoing transformation of sexual attitudes and behaviors that has occurred in the West since the early 1960s.

**LGBTQ+**: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and “other” (+).

**SOGI**: Sexual orientation and gender identity; primarily used in a legal context.

**Self**: An understanding of who I am, of what the purpose of my life is, of what constitutes the good life, of how I understand myself—my *self*—in relation to others and to the world around me.

**Cisgender:** A person whose understanding of their “self” corresponds with their biological reality.

**Transgender**: A person whose understanding of their “self” does not correspond with their biological reality.

**Social imaginary**: The way people think about the world, how they imagine it to be, how they act intuitively in relation to it.

**Mimesis**: The world has a given order and given meaning, so human beings are required to discover that meaning and conform themselves to it.

**Poiesis**: The world is raw material our of which meaning and purpose can be created by the individual.

**Culture**: A set of norms, beliefs, or activities that direct the individual outward. It is greater than, prior to, and formative of the individual. We learn who we are by learning how to conform ourselves to the purposes of the larger community to which we belong. The true self in traditional cultures is something given and learned, not something the individual creates for themselves.

**Psychological man**: A person who finds identity not in outward-directed activities, but in the inward quest for personal psychological happiness.

**Expressive individualism**: Each of us finds our meaning and identity by giving expression to our own feelings and desires.

**Emotivism:** Belief that moral judgments are nothing more than expressions of preference, attitude, or feeling.

**Anticulture:** A culture built on overthrowing existing cultures. A rejection of the community to which we have belonged.

**Deathwork**: An assault on something vital to the established culture…something aimed at making old values look ridiculous.

**Glossary of Key People**

**Charles Taylor** (b. 1931): Canadian Catholic philosopher whose books *A Secular Age* and *Sources of the Self*, have become influential for their insight into how people think today. He coined the term “expressive individualism.”

**Philip Rieff** (1922 – 2006): Sociologist, taught at the University of Pennsylvania for many years. His work primarily had to do with cultures shifting from sacred to secular, including the intentional rejection of historical cultural foundations. He coined the terms “psychological man,” “anticulture,” and “deathworks.”

**Alasdair MacIntyre** (b. 1929): Philosopher, taught at various schools including Notre Dame and Duke. His work, *After Virtue*, dealt with the difficulty of any kind of moral or ethical discourse because we don’t have shared foundations for those kinds of conversations. He coined the term “emotivism.”

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau** (1712 – 1778): Enlightenment philosopher famous for “the social contract.” His work, *Confessions*, in direct opposition to Augustine’s work by the same name, put the blame for humanity’s problems on society rather than the disordered desires of our hearts because of sin.

**Friedrich Nietzsche** (1844 – 1900): German philosopher, wrote many influential books. He argued that if we, as a culture, eliminate God from our understanding of reality and morality, then we must live consistently with that and not continue to use Christian concepts of reality or morality—in essence, we must make up our own versions of reality and morality.

**Karl Marx** (1818 – 1883): Famous for being the father of communism. He argued that history was moving in a certain direction—namely the transformation and liberation of human nature. His understanding of human nature was that it was tied to economic and material conditions in society. Hence why everything has become political. Everything that goes on in society impacts human nature, and thus the ability of humans to flourish. Any oppression that inhibits this economic and material flourishing must be eliminated.

**Charles Darwin** (1809 – 1882): British biologist is famous for his theory of evolution and natural selection. His theory of natural selection made any theological claims about the origins of life irrelevant. Once you get rid of any theological claim about the origins of life, you have no grounds to make theological claims about the meaning of life. Thus, everything relating to the meaning and purpose of humanity is “debatable.”

**Sigmund Freud** (1856 – 1939): Austrian neurologist who argued that the highest goal of human existence is to be happy, and the highest happiness a person could attain is sexual pleasure. With Freud, the purpose of life became personal sexual fulfillment. His understanding of personal fulfillment as sexual pleasure, combined with Marx’s understanding that all oppression that inhibits human flourishing must be eliminated, have become the cornerstones on which this sexual revolution has been built.