

SOCI 101
INTRODUCTION TO
SOCIOLOGY

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[WWW.MORRISVILLE.EDU/SOCIOLOGY](http://www.morrisville.edu/sociology)

You better think (think)
 Think about what you're tryin' to do to me
 Yeah think (think, think)
 Let your mind go, let yourself be free...

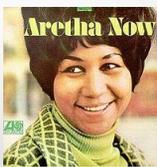
Artist: Aretha Franklin
 Song: Think
 Album: Aretha Now (1968)

Oh freedom (freedom)
 Let's have some freedom (freedom)
 Oh freedom
 Yeah freedom (yeah)

THEME: "Thought=Choice=Freedom"

You need me, I need you
 Without each other
 there ain't nothing we can do

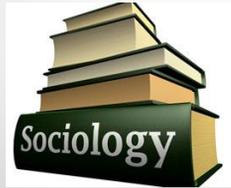
You got to have freedom (freedom)
 Oh freedom (freedom)
 You need some freedom
 Oh freedom
 You got to have
 Hey! think about it
 You! think about it



A. WHAT
IS
SOCIOLOGY?

"The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden." - Pierre Bourdieu

1. SOCIOLOGY IS...

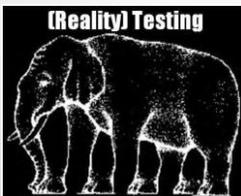


1a. Sociology is the *science* of *society*...

1. SOCIOLOGY IS...

a. Sociology is the *science* of society...

1b. *Science* is the art of "reality testing" through the study of social patterns...



"Things are not what they seem." - Peter Berger

1. SOCIOLOGY IS...

a. Sociology is the science of *society*

b. Science is the art of "reality testing"...

1c. *Society* is a *network* of significant others in relation to the *self*...



1. SOCIOLOGY IS...

- a. Sociology is the science of society...
- b. Science is art of "reality testing"...
- c. Society is a network of significant others in relation to the self...

1d. The Self is a *conscious* organism that can contemplate its own existence among many significant others (the self is reflexive and aware of its own being)...
We *T-H-I-N-K* about ourselves and our relations to others.

SO, the SELF is the basic *unit of analysis* (the smallest part) of the study of sociology...

1e. The "Unit of Analysis" in Sociology is the SELF

An ANALOGY:

Self is to Society as...

 Atom is to Physics

 Molecule is to Chemistry

 Cell is to Biology

BUT

Human beings ("selves") are *not* as *predictable* as molecules, atoms and cells! Why not?

With consciousness comes choice and *free will* – but *how much*? Where does the *fate* of society and culture meet your own free will? *ARE WE TRULY FREE?*

1. What is Sociology?

1f. The Sociological Imagination:

"The vivid awareness of the relationship between personal experience and the wider society."

- C. Wright Mills, 1959, The Sociological Imagination

Self ↔ **Society**

Biography <-----> **History**

SOCIOLOGY FOR THOUGHT

WHAT IS ANOTHER PERSONAL TROUBLE THAT HAS SOCIAL FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE?

HOW DO SOCIAL STRUCTURES CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS?

HOW DOES USING THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION HELP US EXAMINE HUMAN BEHAVIOR?

SARTRE: "FREEDOM IS WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO YOU."

Find your "freedom" through *dialogue with yourself and others*. Writing a journal or blog is a great way to learn about who **you** are by discovering **what's been done to you**.

"The aim of life is to know thyself." - Socrates
"The unexamined life is not worth living." - Aristotle

How do you find **meaning** in life?

Do what you love.

"Your work is to discover your world and then with all your heart give yourself to it." - Buddha

"Do not do what you hate." - Jesus



DUBFX

2. The Origins of Sociology

a. What socio-historical forces **changed** in Europe in the 1800s to prompt people to think sociologically?

1. Industrialization

Agriculture → Manufacturing



2. Urbanization

Countryside → City



3. Political Change

Monarchy → Democracy



2. The Origins of Sociology

b. Who noticed these historical changes and developed sociology into a science?



1. **Auguste Comte** – France, 1798-1857.

He invented the term “sociology.”

For Comte, **science represents a stage in history:**

i. Theological stage

Focus: Religious belief explained everything

ii. Metaphysical stage

Focus: Philosophy applies reason (logos)

iii. Scientific stage

Focus: “**Positivism**” = a purely scientific understanding of the world - social problems stem from social forces.

1851–1854, *Système de politique positive, ou traité de sociologie instituant la religion de l'Humanité* (4 vols.), Paris, Carilian-Goeury. (« System of Positive Polity, or Treaty Establishing Sociology as a Religion of Humanity »)

2. The Origins of Sociology

Who developed sociology into a science?

C. **Emile Durkheim** (France, 1858-1917)

Durkheim made sociology into a science by studying social facts and forces. Made famous for his studies of **anomie** and suicide, religion, and the division of labor in society.

Theory: “Structural Functionalism”
Science-Type: Logical Empiricism

Structural-Functional Theory

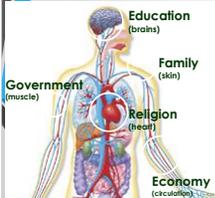
(Durkheim and followers) Focus: Social Order

1. **Social structure:** any relatively stable pattern of social behavior (like institutions).

← Metaphor: If society is an organism, like a human body, its structures are the organs.

2. **Social function:** how structure keeps society operating well; (dysfunction = social problem)

Example: the social structure of education provides knowledge for people to gain skills and get jobs. Also, one educational function is to develop skills of social integration in individuals.



2. The Origins of Sociology

Who developed sociology into a science?

d. **Karl Marx** (Germany, 1818-1883) recognized the great inequalities in the new industrial society (the haves and have-nots). For Marx, economic institutions are the basis of society.

(Theory Connection: “Social-Conflict”
Science-Type: Historical Materialism)

Social-Conflict Theory

(Marx and followers) Focus: Social Power

Society is an arena for group conflict which generates inequality, but also creates change.

Inequalities of this kind include rich v. poor, men v. women, racial conflicts, religious conflicts, etc. But they always involve large categories, or **classes**, of people.



2. The Origins of Sociology

Who developed sociology into a science?



e. **Max Weber**, (Germany, 1864-1920) is known for his groundbreaking research on religion and capitalism, the social classes, and bureaucracy.

(Theory Connection: "Symbolic-Interactionist"
Science-Type: Interpretive/Pragmatic)



Symbolic-Interaction Theory

(Weber and followers) **Focus: Social Meaning**

Society is a product of everyday interactions of individuals, or "micro-level interaction" (vs. the "macro-level" big picture perspective of the previous theories).

How people *interpret* social life and norms is equally as important as the *intentions* of the norm's creators.

"There can be no hear until they renounce their Rabbit God and accept our Duck God."

Central Sociological Concepts Social Institutions

Social interaction takes place in the context of *social institutions*.

Social institutions are the purposeful organization of individuals into social groups and categories.

The universal social institutions are:

Family

Religion
Economy

Education
Politics

The five basic social institutions = ("FREEP")

Institutions define our social lives, and involve nearly every aspect of our personal lives as well. So, big changes in our institutions mean big changes in our personal lives.
