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CHAPTER

1

**UNDERSTANDING
SOCIOLOGY**

CHAPTER OUTLINE

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

The Sociological Imagination
Sociology and the Social Sciences
Sociology and Common Sense

Karl Marx

W. E. B. DuBois

Twentieth-Century Developments

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY?

***THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY***

Early Thinkers
Émile Durkheim
Max Weber

***MAJOR THEORETICAL
PERSPECTIVES***

Functionalist Perspective

Conflict Perspective

Interactionist Perspective

The Sociological Approach

TAKING SOCIOLOGY WITH YOU

Applied and Clinical Sociology

Developing a Sociological Imagination

Sociology in the Global Community:

Your Morning Cup of Coffee

Boxes

*Research Today: Looking at Sports from
Five Sociological Perspectives*

APPENDIX: CAREERS IN SOCIOLOGY

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the sociological imagination and the characteristics of sociology as a discipline.
2. Differentiate the natural sciences, social sciences, and sociology.
3. Distinguish sociology from common sense knowledge about society.
4. Explain the characteristics of sociological theory.
5. Summarize the contributions of the major figures in the history of sociology from Auguste Comte on.
6. Distinguish macrosociology and microsociology.
7. Summarize the characteristics of each of the three major theoretical perspectives in sociology.
8. Describe the objectives of applied sociology and clinical sociology.
9. Employ the sociological imagination to address issues such as globalization, social inequality, race, gender, and religion.

WHAT'S NEW IN CHAPTER 1

- Discussion of the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory, founded by W. E. B. DuBois, and its contributions to applied sociology
- Expanded Thinking Critically exercise on social and cultural capital
- Subsection on queer theory, with key term treatment
- Research Today box, “Looking at Sports from Five Sociological Perspectives”

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and human groups. In attempting to understand social patterns of behavior, sociologists rely on a unique type of critical thinking referred to by **C. Wright Mills** as the **sociological imagination**. A key element of the sociological imagination is having an awareness of the relationship between an individual and the wider society.

Sociology, along with anthropology, psychology, economics, history, and political science, is a **social science**. Sociologists study the influence that society has on people’s attitudes and behavior and the ways in which people interact and shape society. Sociology is extremely broad in scope and

encompasses a number of substantive topics ranging from aging and the life course to crime, education, health, religion, and sexuality. Unlike common sense, sociological data is empirical, meaning that sociologists rely on scientific studies in order to describe and understand a social environment. Common sense, on the other hand, is based on conventional wisdom, which as we know is often inaccurate and unreliable.

Sociologists use theories to help explain events, forces, ideas, or behavior in a comprehensive manner. A **theory** is simply a set of statements that seeks to explain problems, actions, or behavior. The strongest theories are those that both explain and predict. Sociologists rely on a variety of theories, each with a different set of assumptions and a unique perspective.

Several European social theorists made long-standing contributions to the development of sociology and to sociological theory. **Auguste Comte** (1798–1857) coined the term *sociology* and was one of the first to suggest an application of scientific principles to the study of human behavior. **Harriet Martineau** (1802–1876), an English sociologist, is known both for her translations of Comte’s writings and for her original studies of the customs and social practices of Britain and the United States. Martineau’s writings emphasized the impact that the economy, law, trade, health, and population could have on social problems, and she worked as an activist for religious and gender rights, as well as the for the emancipation of slaves.

One of the most controversial social theorists of the 19th century was **Herbert Spencer** (1820–1903). Drawing on the ideas of Charles Darwin, Spencer argued that like animals, humans have varying levels of social fitness, and those who are the most fit will thrive, while those who are less fit will struggle and eventually die out. His theories appealed to many throughout Britain and the United States, especially the powerful, who had a vested interest in protecting the status quo. **Émile Durkheim** was one of the first appointed professors of sociology in France. Durkheim was interested in the processes and consequences of modernization. According to Durkheim, the modernization of society may lead to a condition known as “anomie,” or normlessness. Anomie is experienced when social norms lose their effectiveness as instruments of control. The inability of modern societies to regulate or control behavior may lead to higher levels of deviance, including suicide. Indeed, Durkheim’s most well-known work examined the social patterns underlying suicide rates. **Max Weber** (1864–1920), another important theorist, was well-versed in many subject areas, including history, law, and religion. Weber made several contributions to the field of sociology, including the concept of *verstehen*, the German word for “understanding” or “insight.” Weber argued that social phenomenon cannot be studied using objective criteria only. Rather, sociologists must understand the subjective meanings human actors attach to their actions and to things around them. Weber is also known for the concept of *ideal type*. An ideal type is a construct based on pure characteristics. Ideal types are used in sociology for understanding, describing, and comparing.

Like Spencer, **Karl Marx** (1818–1883) is one of the most controversial figures in sociology, although for very different reasons. Marx was highly critical of existing social institutions and their tendency to create and maintain the status quo. He was especially outspoken on the matter of worker exploitation by the bourgeoisie. Together with his friend and colleague Friedrich Engels, Marx wrote *The Communist Manifesto*, a brief but compelling document, urging the working class (or “proletariat”) to overthrow the ruling class (“bourgeoisie”). Because of his subversive writings, endorsement of major social change, and involvement with underground organizations, Marx was eventually exiled from Germany. His work, however, continues to have an enormous influence on sociological research and theory even to this day.

A number of contemporary social theorists, many from the United States, have also made contributions to the field of sociology. **W. E. B. DuBois** (1868–1963), one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP), used sociological research to study urban life for Black and White Americans in hopes that his studies would be used to assist in the struggle for racial equality. DuBois stressed that empowerment comes through knowledge, and he was a champion of equal access to higher education. Like Marx, DuBois encountered a certain amount of resistance from the academy due to the political and activist nature of his writings. In 1897 he coined the term *double consciousness* to refer to the division of an individual’s identity into two or more social realities. **Charles Horton Cooley** (1864–1929), a convert from economics to sociology, preferred to look at smaller units, including intimate, face-to-face groups such as dyads. Cooley’s work contributed immensely to our understanding of group dynamics, particularly as they relate to group size. **Jane Addams** (1860–1935) often combined intellectual rigor with political activism. She is known for the establishment of “Hull House” in Chicago, a settlement house for the poor. Addams was involved in a number of social causes, including the rights of women, children, and immigrants.

Although Addams helped to grow the discipline of social work, by the mid-20th century the field of sociology had begun to separate itself from social workers and activists. **Robert Merton** (1910–2003), recently a sociologist at Columbia University, proposed one of the most popular and frequently cited explanations for deviant behavior. Merton based his explanation of crime on individual behavior that has been influenced by society’s approved goals and means. When social norms advocate a certain lifestyle but simultaneously prevent some from achieving that lifestyle, deviance and criminal behavior is likely to result. Finally, **Pierre Bourdieu**, a sociologist from France, developed the concept of “cultural capital.” In addition to material assets, capital may take the form of cultural assets, including such things as family background, occupational prestige, and access to important informal networks. In comparison, “social capital” refers to the collective benefit of social networks, which are built on reciprocal trust.

Sociologists, like lay persons, view society in different ways. The **functionalist perspective** views society like a living organism in which each part contributes to its overall survival. This perspective was developed primarily by **Talcott Parsons** (1902–1979), a sociologist at Harvard University. According to this view, any aspect of society that persists over time does so because it serves some purpose and in some way contributes to its livelihood. Even something such as crime or poverty may persist so long as it serves some purpose or “function.” For functionalists, the parts of society normally work together toward a common goal. Robert Merton distinguished between the manifest functions of institutions, which are open, stated, and conscious, with latent functions, which are unconscious or unintended functions that may reflect the hidden purposes of an institution. The **conflict perspective** views the parts of society as at odds with one another. From the conflict perspective, groups in society are constantly engaged in a power struggle over scarce, highly valued, resources. Dominant groups, wishing to maintain their positions of power, create ideologies and institutions that serve to protect the status quo. Karl Marx, a key figure among conflict theorists, viewed conflict (rather than consensus) as the primary characteristic of all human societies. Furthermore, it was his belief that it was capitalism that was primarily responsible for the exploitation of the working class. Derived from the conflict perspective, the **feminist perspective** (or “feminist theory”) views gender as the primary sorting device in all societies. Not only are women and men separated, they are also stratified. Patriarchy, like other forms of social and economic dominance, is maintained through the presence of ideologies and institutional arrangements. **Queer theory**, another branch, approaches the study of society from the perspective of a broad spectrum of sexual identities, including heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality. Finally, the **interactionist perspective** is concerned with everyday forms of interaction, including symbols, language, and nonverbal communication. **George Herbert Mead** (1863–1931), an

American sociologist and philosopher, first developed interactionism in the United States and is regarded as the founder of this perspective. It should be noted that sociologists make use of all perspectives, since each offers unique insights into the character of social behavior.

Applied sociology involves the use of sociological findings or insight with the specific intent of yielding practical applications for persons or society. **Clinical sociology** is dedicated to altering social relationships or to restructuring social institutions. Both applied and clinical sociology can be contrasted with **basic** or **pure sociology**, which seeks to build a knowledge base of the fundamental aspects of social phenomena. This type of research is not necessarily meant to generate specific applications.

This book will attempt to show sociological imagination in several different ways: showing theory in practice and in research, thinking globally, exploring inequality, and investigating racial, religious, and gender boundaries. Strong research is a foundation to all the approaches to sociology, and it can shed light on many different sociological processes. Globalization, the worldwide integration of government policies, cultures, social movements, and financial markets through trade and the exchange of ideas, is also an important and growing factor in sociological study. Perhaps the most dominant theme of analysis in sociology today is social inequality, a condition in which members of society have differing amounts of wealth, prestige, or power. Many sociologists have used their research and analysis to advocate for social justice. In general, sociologists seek to draw conclusions that speak to all people. An important use of the sociological imagination is in the attempt to form a greater understanding of social issues throughout the world.

LECTURE OUTLINE

Introduction

- Excerpt from *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other* by Sherry Turkle

I. What Is Sociology?

- Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and human groups. It focuses on social relationships and how those relationships influence people's behavior. It also focuses on how societies develop and change. The range of sociological issues is very broad.

A. The Sociological Imagination

- American sociologist C. Wright Mills (1916–1962) described this type of creative thinking as the ability to view one's own society as an outsider. **Examples:** What constitutes a normal sporting event is different in the United States than it is in Bali. Divorce can be understood not simply as a personal problem but as a wider societal concern.
- The sociological imagination allows us to look beyond a limited understanding of things and people in the world, and allows for a broader vision of society.

B. Sociology and the Social Sciences

- The term *science* refers to the body of knowledge obtained by methods based on systematic observation. Just like other sciences, sociology involves the organized,

- systematic study of phenomena.
- Natural science is the study of the physical features of nature. Astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, and physics are natural sciences.
 - Social science is the study of the social features of human society. Sociology, anthropology, economics, history, psychology, and political science are social sciences.
 - In contrast to other social sciences, sociology emphasizes the influence that society has on people's attitudes and behaviors, and examines the ways in which people interact and shape society. *Example*: Sociologists and other social scientists offer a unique perspective on such events as Hurricane Katrina.

C. Sociology and Common Sense

- Common sense is often unreliable and inaccurate. **Example:** There is a common belief that women are more talkative than men. However, researchers have found that both male and female college students speak about 16,000 words per day (Mehl et al. 2007).
- Sociologists test, record, and analyze information scientifically to describe and understand a social environment. **Example:** Common sense may tell us the world is round, but the notion is based on centuries of scientific work.

II. What Is Sociological Theory?

- Theory is a set of statements that seeks to explain problems, actions, or behaviors. Effective theory may be both explanatory and predictive. **Example:** Durkheim's theory on suicide both explains and predicts which groups are most at risk for suicide.
- Durkheim's research suggested that, while a solitary act, suicide is related to group life. Suicide rates reflect the extent to which people are integrated into the group life of society. Modern research reveals a similar pattern. **Example:** Las Vegas has a low level of community cohesiveness and a high suicide rate compared to the rest of the United States.
- Theory and research should not be thought of as separate processes. Remember, an essential task in building sociological theory is to examine the relationship between bits of data that are gathered through the research process that may seem completely unrelated.

III. The Development of Sociology

- European theorists made pioneering contributions to the development of a science of human behavior.

A. Early Thinkers

1. Auguste Comte (1798–1857)

- Comte coined the term *sociology* to refer to the science of human behavior; he is credited with being the most influential of the philosophers of the early 1800s.
- Comte believed a theoretical science of society and systematic investigations of behavior were needed to improve society.

2. Harriet Martineau (1802–1876)

- Martineau offered insightful observations on the customs and social practices of both Britain and the United States. She emphasized the impact of economy, law, trade, health, and population on social problems.
- She spoke in favor of the rights of women, the emancipation of slaves, and religious tolerance.
- She believed that intellectuals and scholars should not simply offer observations of social conditions; they should act on their convictions in a manner that will benefit society.

3. Herbert Spencer (1820–1903)

- Spencer adapted Charles Darwin's evolutionary view of the "survival of the fittest" by arguing that it is natural that some people are rich while others are poor.

- Spencer’s view appealed to those with a vested interest in the status quo, and it was most opposed by those seeking social change.
- The idea of “social Darwinism” is highly controversial.

B. Émile Durkheim (1858–1917)

- Durkheim stressed that behavior must be understood within a larger social context, not just in individualistic or psychological terms.
- Durkheim concluded that religion reinforces a group’s solidarity.
- The consequences of work were of interest to Durkheim. He suggested that the highly specialized division of labor in industrial societies leads to *anomie*, a state of normlessness.
- Durkheim was concerned about the dangers that alienation, loneliness, and isolation might pose for modern industrial societies.

C. Max Weber (1864–1920)

- Weber was a German sociologist who suggested social researchers should employ *verstehen* (a deep level of understanding) in their intellectual work. To fully comprehend behavior, we must learn the subjective meanings people attach to their actions—how they themselves view and explain their behavior.
- Weber is also credited with the concept of an *ideal type*, a construct based on pure or ideal characteristics. He described various characteristics of an organizational model of bureaucracy as an ideal type.

D. Karl Marx (1818–1883)

- Marx suggested that society is fundamentally divided between classes that clash in pursuit of their own class and self-interests. He saw the factory as the center of conflict between the owners of the means of production (bourgeoisie) and the exploited labor forces (proletariat).
- Marx and his colleague Friedrich Engels argued that workers should unite to overthrow capitalist societies.

E. W. E. B. DuBois (1868–1963)

- DuBois, a Black sociologist, contended knowledge was essential to combat prejudice and discrimination. He believed that full political rights and education were both key to economic and social progress for Black Americans.
- Because he challenged the status quo, he didn’t find a receptive audience in either government or academia.
- DuBois coined the term *double consciousness*, referring to the division of a person’s identity into two or more social realities. According to DuBois, this concept captures the experiences of Blacks living in a White America.

F. Twentieth-Century Developments

- Sociologists within the United States have contributed to the development of new insights to better understand the workings of society.

1. Charles Horton Cooley (1864–1929)

- Cooley preferred to use the sociological perspective to look first at smaller units, such as intimate face-to-face groups. He saw these groups as the seedbeds of society in the way they shape people’s ideals, beliefs, values, behavior patterns, and ultimately our sense of self.

- Cooley’s work increased our understanding of groups, particularly in the area of groups of relatively small size.
2. **Jane Addams (1860–1935)**
 - A social reformer, Addams co-founded Chicago’s Hull House.
 - Working with Ida Wells-Barnett, she successfully prevented racial segregation in Chicago public schools.
 - Addams advocated for a more egalitarian society.
 3. **Robert Merton (1910–2003)**
 - Merton produced a theory that is one of the most frequently cited explanations of deviant behavior. In it, he noted different ways people achieve success.
 - He emphasized sociology should strive to bring together the macro-level and micro-level approaches to the study of society.
 - Macrosociology concentrates on large-scale phenomena such as institutions.
 - Microsociology stresses small group interaction.
 4. **Pierre Bourdieu (1930–2002)**
 - According to Bourdieu, capital has many forms, including knowledge, prestige, culture, formal schooling, and social connections.
 - Cultural capital sustains individuals and families from one generation to the next.
 - Cultural capital, therefore, contributes to a reproduction of the class structure.

IV. Major Theoretical Perspectives

- The major perspectives provide an introductory look at the discipline of sociology. They are used to help explain, interpret, and analyze social patterns uncovered by sociologists.

A. Functionalist Perspective

- In the view of functionalists, society is like a living organism in which each part of the organism contributes to its survival.
- Functionalism emphasizes the way the parts of a society are structured to maintain its stability.
- In examining any aspect of society, then, functionalists emphasize the contribution it makes to overall social stability.
- Talcott Parsons dominated functionalist thought in sociology for over four decades in the United States.

1. Manifest and Latent Functions

- Robert Merton described manifest functions as open, stated, conscious functions that involve intended, recognized consequences.
- Latent functions are unconscious or unintended functions, which may reflect a hidden purpose. *Example:* Education has the manifest function of teaching and training the next generation of workers. At the same time, schooling ensures that a certain segment of the population will not compete for jobs. In addition, colleges and universities often serve as meeting grounds for people to form new relationships. Thus, we might say that mate selection is a latent function of education.

2. Dysfunctions

- This term refers to an element or process of a society that may disrupt the social system or reduce its social stability.
- Dysfunctions can be negative or positive in nature. *Example:* Prison gangs can be functional for prison security.

B. Conflict Perspective

- The conflict perspective assumes that social behavior is best understood in terms of conflict or tension between competing groups.
- Expanding on Marx's work, conflict theorists are interested in how society's institutions maintain privileges for the upper classes and keep others in a subservient position.
- The conflict approach (also known as "conflict theory") has become increasingly persuasive since the late 1960s.

1. The Marxist View

- This view considers the exploitation of workers under capitalism.
- The perspective emphasizes social change and a redistribution of resources.
- This view is considered more radical and more activist-oriented than the functionalist view.

2. The Feminist Perspective

- This view suggests that gender is the major sorting device in society.
- The feminist view derived from and is typically allied with the conflict perspective.
- Feminist theory focuses on macro-level relationships, like conflict theory.
- Feminist theory views the subordination of women as inherent in capitalist societies.
- Radical feminists hold the oppression of women as inevitable in all male-dominated (patriarchal) societies.

3. Queer Theory

- French social theorist Michel Foucault pointed out that what is regarded as normal or even acceptable human sexuality varies dramatically from one culture and time period to another.
- Queer theory is the study of society from the perspective of a broad spectrum of sexual identities, including heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality.
- Queer theory argues that any analysis of society is incomplete if it does not include the spectrum of sexual identities that people embrace.

C. Interactionist Perspective

- The interactionist perspective generalizes about everyday, taken-for-granted, forms of social interaction in order to better understand society as a whole. It involves the assumption that human beings live in a world of meaningful, or symbolic, objects.
Example: commuter "slugging" in response to higher gas prices
- American sociologist George Herbert Mead (1863–1931) is regarded as the founder of interactionism.
- Symbols are seen as an especially important part of human communication.
Example: Consider what is communicated by a salute or a clenched fist. Nonverbal communications can include facial gestures, expressions, and postures.
- Canadian sociologist Erving Goffman (1922–1982) popularized what is known as the dramaturgical approach. This approach compares the actions of individuals in everyday life to actors performing on a stage. *Example:* Consider how we may project a serious image in class but a recreational or "party" image with friends.

D. The Sociological Approach

- Sociology makes use of all the perspectives. See Table 1-2.
- No single approach is the correct one. Perspectives may often overlap, and they can also diverge. Each offers a unique perspective on social life.

V. Taking Sociology With You

- Applied and clinical sociology are two growing fields that allow sociology majors and those with advanced degrees in sociology to apply what they have learned to real-world settings.

A. Applied and Clinical Sociology

- Applied sociology is the use of sociology with the specific intent to yield practical applications for human behavior and organizations. *Example*: the study and serving of a particular community's women of childbearing age who have little or no regular access to health care in order to reduce infant mortality rates
- Applied sociology has led to specializations, such as medical and environmental sociology.
- Clinical sociology is dedicated to facilitating change by altering social relationships (as in family therapy) or restructuring social institutions (as in the reorganization of a medical center).
- Basic (pure) sociology seeks to expand a knowledge base and our understanding of a topic. *Example*: Durkheim's research on suicide is an example of basic or pure sociology rather than applied or clinical sociology.

B. Developing a Sociological Imagination

1. Theory in Practice

- The ways in which the sociological perspectives are useful for understanding today's issues are illustrated.

2. Research Today

- New information on social factors that influence human social behavior is revealed.
- Research today has direct applications to improving people's lives.

3. Our Wired World

- For many, "news" can mean social network postings just as much as traditional news reporting.
- More and more, electronic gadgets and applications are altering our social behavior.

4. Thinking Globally

- *Globalization* refers to the worldwide integration of government policies, cultures, social movements, and financial markets through trade and the exchange of ideas.
- Globalization is increasing. Sociologists recognize that social behavior must be viewed within a global context.
- Some view globalization as a natural result of advances in communication (i.e., the Internet). Others suggest the expansion of multinational corporations has created a world without borders.

5. The Significance of Social Inequality

- Social inequality is a condition in which members of society have differing amounts of wealth, prestige, or power as well as different levels of access to these important resources.
- Sociologists often see behavior as shaped by social inequality.

6. Speaking across Race, Gender, and Religious Boundaries

- Men and women, as well as people from a variety of ethnic, national, and religious origins, are included in research by sociologists.
- Sociology today seeks to better understand the experiences of all people.

7. Social Policy throughout the World

- An important way we can improve our sociological imagination is to enhance our understanding of current social issues throughout the world. Social Policy sections will focus on how fundamental sociological concepts can enhance critical thinking skills and understanding of social policy debates.
- Sociology has been used to evaluate the success of programs or the impact of changes brought about by policymakers and political activists.

KEY TERMS

Anomie The loss of direction felt in a society when social control of individual behavior has become ineffective.

Applied sociology The use of the discipline of sociology with the specific intent of yielding practical applications for human behavior and organizations.

Basic sociology Sociological inquiry conducted with the objective of gaining a more profound knowledge of the fundamental aspects of social phenomena. Also known as *pure sociology*.

Clinical sociology The use of the discipline of sociology with the specific intent of altering social relationships or restructuring social institutions.

Conflict perspective A sociological approach that assumes that social behavior is best understood in terms of tension between groups over power or the allocation of resources, including housing, money, access to services, and political representation.

Cultural capital Noneconomic goods, such as family background and education, which are reflected in a knowledge of language and the arts.

Double consciousness The division of an individual's identity into two or more social realities.

Dramaturgical approach A view of social interaction in which people are seen as theatrical performers.

Dysfunction An element or a process of society that may disrupt a social system or reduce its stability.

Feminist perspective A sociological approach that views inequity in gender as central to all behavior and organization.

Functionalist perspective A sociological approach that emphasizes the way in which the parts of a society are structured to maintain its stability.

Globalization The worldwide integration of government policies, cultures, social movements, and financial markets through trade and the exchange of ideas.

Ideal type A construct or model for evaluating specific cases.

Interactionist perspective A sociological approach that generalizes about everyday forms of social interaction in order to explain society as a whole.

Latent function An unconscious or unintended function that may reflect hidden purposes.

Macrosociology Sociological investigation that concentrates on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations.

Manifest function An open, stated, and conscious function.

Microsociology Sociological investigation that stresses the study of small groups, often through experimental means.

- Natural science** The study of the physical features of nature and the ways in which they interact and change.
- Nonverbal communication** The sending of messages through the use of gestures, facial expressions, and postures.
- Queer theory** The study of society from the perspective of a broad spectrum of sexual identities, including heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality.
- Science** The body of knowledge obtained by methods based upon systematic observation.
- Social capital** The collective benefit of social networks, which are built on reciprocal trust.
- Social inequality** A condition in which members of society have differing amounts of wealth, prestige, and power.
- Social science** The study of the social features of humans and the ways in which they interact and change.
- Sociological imagination** An awareness of the relationship between an individual and the wider society, both today and in the past.
- Sociology** The scientific study of social behavior and human groups.
- Theory** In sociology, a set of statements that seeks to explain problems, actions, or behavior.
- Verstehen** The German word for “understanding” or “insight”; used to stress the need for sociologists to take into account the subjective meanings people attach to their actions.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Why might poverty be of interest to sociologists and psychologists in different ways?
2. How might a sociologist approach the issue of domestic violence, drug addiction, or depression differently from a psychologist?
3. What did C. Wright Mills mean by the “sociological imagination”? How could it be applied to, for example, watching people running in a marathon?
4. Distinguish between sociology and other social sciences identified in the text.
5. How are sociology and “common sense” similar? How are they different?
6. Why is theory an important part of sociology as a social science discipline? What is the relationship between theory and research?
7. Summarize Émile Durkheim’s findings on suicide.
8. How did Auguste Comte view the discipline of sociology?
9. What contributions did Harriet Martineau and Herbert Spencer make to sociology?
10. Explain why the ideas of Herbert Spencer are considered antithetical to the fundamental assumptions of sociology.
11. Explain why Max Weber felt that it was important for researchers to employ *verstehen*.
12. Describe Karl Marx’s contribution to sociology and other social sciences.
13. Describe the contributions Charles Horton Cooley, Jane Addams, and Robert Merton made to sociology.

14. Distinguish between the two levels of analysis used in sociology (macro-level and micro-level).
15. Distinguish between manifest and latent functions, and dysfunctions.
16. Distinguish between the functionalist and conflict approaches to the study of society.
17. Explain which sociological perspective best reflects the approach taken by Karl Marx, and why.
18. How did W. E. B. DuBois contribute to conflict theory?
19. How does the feminist view differ from other views inspired by the conflict perspective?
20. What contributions did George Herbert Mead make to sociology?
21. Why is nonverbal communication important to interactionist theory?
22. Explain what is meant by the dramaturgical approach and identify the sociological approach with which it is associated.
23. Select one of the three approaches to sociology (conflict, functionalist, or interactionist), describe it, and identify a social thinker associated with it.
24. Summarize the major differences across the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives.
25. How can the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives be used to interpret sports?
26. Discuss the place of social inequality within the discipline of sociology.
27. Explain why the concept of globalization is important for sociologists to address.
28. In which sociological perspective does queer theory fall, and what new approach has it introduced into the science?

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Using the functionalist perspective, discuss the role of sports in contributing to the overall social stability of our society.
2. Using the interactionist perspective, discuss how sports affect day-to-day social behavior in our society.
3. Using the conflict perspective, describe how sports might strengthen the inherent divisions within our society.
4. Using the interactionist perspective (Goffman's dramaturgical approach, specifically), discuss the reactions students might have to seeing one of their professors at a college fraternity or sorority party.
5. Discuss how the predictive power of sociology could be used to influence social policy and improve the quality of social life.