

An Introduction to Sociology: Exploring Culture and Social Control

Examining Social Life

Define sociology and explain what it means to have a sociological imagination.

Describe how sociology is similar and different from other social sciences.

Sociology: Then and Now

Describe the ways the three main theoretical perspectives in sociology differ in their focus.

Explain how the field of sociology developed.

The Meaning of Culture

Define meaning of the term culture, and how material culture and nonmaterial culture differ.

Outline the basic components of culture.

Cultural Variation

Define cultural universals and explain why they exist.

Define ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.

Identify the factors that account for variations among and within cultures.

The American Value System

Describe the new values that have developed in the United States since the 1970s.

Outline the basic values that form the foundation of American culture.

Social Control

Analyze the differences between formal and informal sanctions.

Analyze the differences between positive and negative sanctions.

Describe how are the norms of society are enforced.

Social Change

Explain the main sources of social change.

Identify the factors that lead people to resist social change.

Social Structure and Socializing the Individual

Building Blocks of Social Structure

Describe the two major components of social structure.

Explain how these two components of social structure affect human interaction.

Types of Social Interaction

Describe the common types of social interaction.

Identify the types of interactions that stabilize social structure and those that can disrupt it.

Types of Societies

Describe the roles that individuals play in the these models of group systems.

Identify the types of societies that exist in the world today.



Groups Within Society

Explain the purposes that groups fulfill.

Outline the major features of primary and secondary groups.

The Structure of Formal Organizations

Describe how bureaucracies are structured.

Explain how bureaucracies are effective.

Personality Development

Describe how isolation in childhood affects development.

Outline the four main factors that affect the development of personality.

The Social Self

Explain how a person's sense of self emerges.

Identify the theories that have been put forth to explain the process of socialization.

Agents of Socialization

Explain why family and education are important social institutions.

Identify the most important agents of socialization in the United States.

Adolescents, Adults, and Families in Society

Adolescence in Our Society

Identify the five general characteristics of adolescence.

Summarize how adolescence developed as a distinct stage of the life cycle in the Unites States.

Teenagers and Dating

Outline the functions that dating fulfills.

Summarize how dating developed as a form of social interaction.

Early and Middle Adulthood

Summarize Daniel Levinson's theory of male development.

Summarize the stages of adult female development.

The World of Work

Describe how the composition of the labor force in the United States has changed.

Describe how the nature of work in the United States has changed.

The Later Years

Describe the characteristics of life during late adulthood.

Identify the new challenges that older Americans face.

Age and Disability

Explain how aging of the population is affecting the life chances of older Americans.

Summarize the effect that aging of the population is having on society.



The Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Describe the norms that influence the ways in which marriage patterns are organized around the world.

Identify the basic societal needs that the institution of family satisfies.

The American Family

Outline the trends in American family life that are currently being examined by sociologists.

Summarize how American families begin and the disruptions they might face.

Deviance, Social Control, Social Stratification, and Social Institutions

Deviance

Compare the theories that have been proposed to explain deviance.

Summarize the nature and social functions of deviance.

Crime

Describe the characteristics of the American criminal-justice system.

Identify the principle types of crime in the United States.

Systems of Stratification

Compare and contrast the major theories of social stratification.

Describe the characteristics of caste systems and class systems.

The American Class Systems

Describe the characteristics of the American class system.

Explain how different motivations and cultural values influence the American class system.

Poverty

Analyze the steps that have been taken by the federal government to lessen the effects of poverty.

Identify the groups of Americans that are affected by poverty.

The Political Institution

Describe how the exercise of power varies by type of government.

Describe the major characteristics of the U.S. political system.

The Sociology of Education

Compare and contrast the views of the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist sociologists concerning education.

Identify some of the current issues in American education.

The Sociology of Religion

Describe the basic societal needs that religion serves.

Identify the distinctive features of religion in American Society.

Mass Media as a Social Institution

Identify the types of mass media in the United States.

Outline some of the contemporary mass-media issues.

Summarize the major developments in the history of mass media.



Exploring our Differences, Social Structure, and Change

Race, Ethnicity, and the Social Structure

Describe the characteristics that distinguishes minority groups from one another.

Explain how sociologists define the terms race, ethnicity, and minority group.

Patterns of Intergroup Relations

Describe how discrimination and prejudice differ.

Identify the most common patterns of minority-group treatment.

Minority Groups in the United States

Identify the conditions under which minority groups in the United States live.

Summarize the government policies that have affected the lives of minority groups in the United States.

Gender

Describe how gender roles affect the opportunities available to men and women in society.

Explain how gender roles are affected by socialization.

Population Change

Describe how sociologists explain population change.

Identify the factors that affect the size and structure of populations and how sociologists measure these factors.

Outline the programs that have been instituted to control population growth.

Urban Life

Explain how cities evolve and why urbanization is such a recent event.

Outline the models that have been proposed to explain the structure of cities.

Summarize the theories that have been put forth to explain city life.

Collective Behavior

Describe the differences between various types of collectivities.

Summarize the explanations that have been proposed to explain collective behavior.

Summarize the preconditions that are necessary for collective behavior to occur and explain how they build on one another.

Social Movements

Describe the types of social movements that exist and explain how they differ.

Explain the existence of social movements.

Identify the stages of the life cycle of social movements.

Explaining Social Change

Explain how the theories on social change have evolved.

Summarize the theories that social scientists have offered to explain the process of social change.