

SIXTH
EDITION

SOCIOLOGY

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



ALEX THIO

sixth
edition

Sociology

A Brief Introduction

Alex Thio

Ohio University



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Preface

Today, we are living in a world of swift social changes. Just reflect on how our society has changed because of the explosive growth of Internet use, the widespread loss of jobs, the enormous cost of bringing democracy to Iraq, the decline of international respect for the United States, and the constant threat of 9/11-like terrorist attacks. The need to use sociology to understand these and numerous other changes around us is greater than ever. We will explore them in this new edition of *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*. It is a significant revision, packed with up-to-date and useful information and new ideas from the latest sociological research.

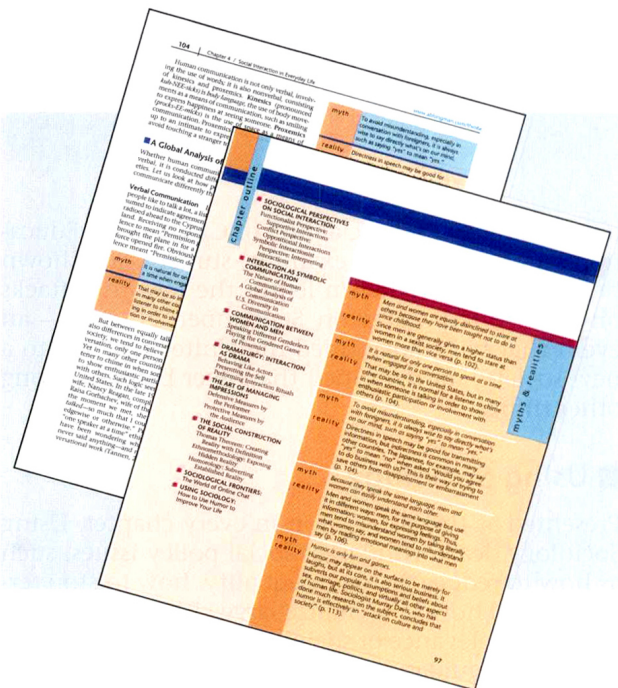
This book is designed to help students have fun learning sociology. Thus, the fast-paced and lively writing style, the frequent use of interesting examples, and the abundance of thought-provoking illustrations should stimulate student interest in sociology. By studying this book, students will learn to think analytically and critically about the society and the world in which they live. Equipped with new information and better tools for thinking, they will look at their world, their society, and their own lives with enhanced clarity and insight and will be able to live their lives more productively and joyously.

FEATURES

A unique blend of style and substance makes *Sociology: A Brief Introduction* stand out from the rest. In addition to the trusted, hallmark features of the book, I have added a number of new features to this edition in order to make it easier and more enjoyable for students to learn sociology.

■ Myths and Realities

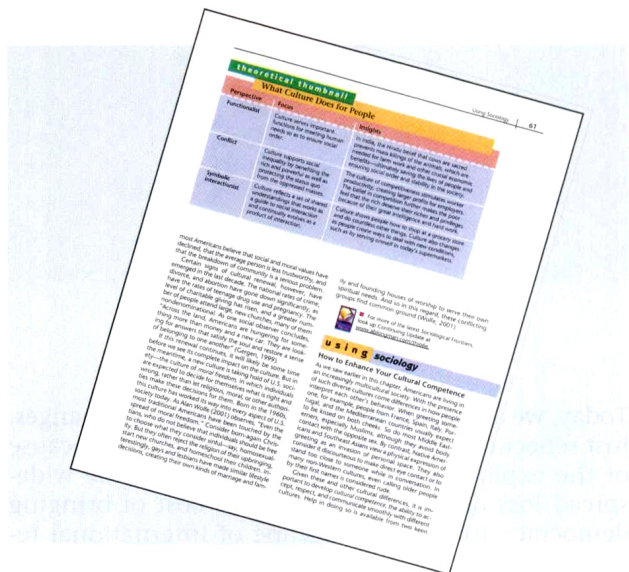
This text is unique for opening each chapter with a list of Myths and Realities about social behavior, which are then addressed at relevant points in the chapter. Many students assume that sociology is only common sense—that what it has to teach, they have



known all along. In this text, students will find some of their firmest assumptions challenged, and they will start to look at the familiar world around them with a fresh, critical eye. A Myth and Reality item in Chapter 10 (Families), for example, questions the popular belief that the high U.S. divorce rate has made Americans sour on marriage. This item appears again later in the chapter, near the point at which the topic is discussed, to reinforce student comprehension and retention.

Sociological Frontiers

Unique to this book, the Sociological Frontiers feature follows the text discussion in every chapter. It offers new, intriguing sociological studies and ideas, as well as sociological interpretations of the new events in our fast-changing world. Students are thus invited to explore and understand the frontiers of



both sociology and social life. In Chapter 11 (Education and Religion), for example, students are shown how religious fanaticism led to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001—an event that has transformed the United States into a new society, more unified than ever before, among other things.

■ Using Sociology

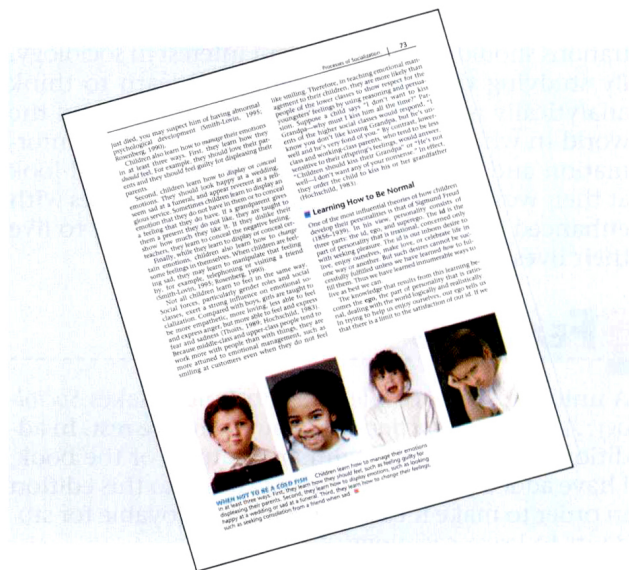
Presented as the last section in every chapter, Using Sociology deals with larger social policy issues, such as how to reduce gender inequality, how to stop terrorists, and how to revitalize large cities. By bringing home the relevance of sociology, this section also offers specific guidance that students can apply to their own lives, such as how to manage their drinking, how to become a millionaire, and how to achieve success and happiness in college.

■ Theoretical Thumbnail

The three major theoretical perspectives—functionalist, conflict, and symbolic interactionist—are introduced in the first chapter and then illustrated in a section on sports, a subject most students are familiar with. Having established this basic understanding, the text returns to these three perspectives consistently in every chapter, applying each to the topic at hand. At the end of this discussion, the three perspectives are summed up in a table called Theoretical Thumbnail. This approach, which is unique to this text, enables students to easily compare the perspectives so that they can clearly comprehend and remember how each one makes sense of the subject in question.

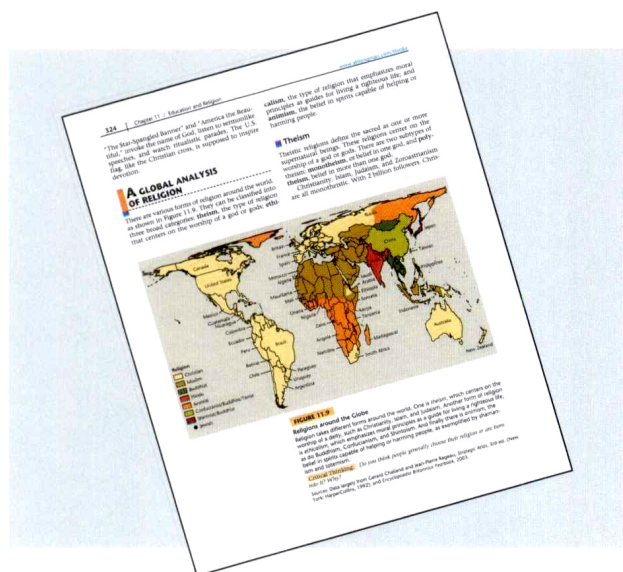
■ Photo Caption Titles

Distinct to this text is the use of short titles with all photo captions. New to this edition, these titles were carefully created to bring out the essence of the message showcased by each picture and commentary. Students will find the titles interesting to read and the messages easy to remember, which will enhance their enjoyment and learning of sociology.



■ Global Analysis

Again, unique to this book, every chapter contains a section that analyzes how people around the world live. These analyses not only enhance and deepen students' understanding of other cultures, but they also help students gain special insight into their own



society by looking at it more objectively—from an outsider's point of view. The global analysis section in Chapter 7 (U.S. and Global Stratification), for example, explores the link between women's participation in the labor force and the level of prosperity in a society, suggesting one reason for the relatively high level of economic success in the United States.

Social Diversity

The diversity of American society—which comprises various racial and ethnic groups, as well as women and men of different social classes and sexual orientations—is highlighted in sections on Social Diversity that appear in virtually all chapters. The text does not focus only on the *problems* of women and minorities; instead, their strengths and achievements are also revealed. Chapter 10 (Families), for example, discusses differences among Native American, African American, Hispanic American, and Asian American families, along with gay and lesbian marriages.

Feminist Views

Explanations of feminist views on various social issues are frequently provided throughout the text. Feminist theorists have made significant contributions to sociology by shedding light on many previously ignored subjects and offering new ways of looking at familiar social issues. In this book, students will learn from the feminist perspective about numerous important matters, such as how feminists contribute to the conflict perspective in sociology, why women run organizations differently than men, and how the oppression of women is related to environmental problems.

Continuing Update on the Web

Every day, events occur that challenge our perception of U.S. society and how it functions in the global arena. To address these events, this book will be updated continually after it has been published. These updates will appear in the form of original articles that bring a sociological perspective to today's issues and events, much like those discussed in the Sociological Frontiers sections of this text. Such articles will appear regularly at the text's Companion Website: www.ablongman.com/thio6e. Readers will find a reminder of the Continuing Update feature, including this web address, after the Sociological Frontiers section in every chapter.

LEARNING AIDS

The effective system of learning aids provided in this text will motivate students and facilitate their learning. Students are encouraged to think about the materials by themselves and then to prepare for class discussion of important concepts and issues. It is frequently through such active involvement with what they have read that students begin to sharpen their thinking skills. Then the understanding and absorption of ideas presented in this text and in the course will come easily.

Chapter-Opening Vignettes

Along with a chapter outline and a Myths and Realities box, each chapter opens with a thought-provoking vignette. This brief story will stimulate students' interest and fix their attention on the main themes of the chapter.



■ Questions for Thinking Critically

Critical-thinking questions are used to conclude the Using Sociology features and the commentaries that appear with all of the figures. These questions encourage students to think critically about their society and the world around them and to apply what they have learned from sociology to their own lives.

■ Stimulating Graphics

A wide range of colorful graphs, maps, photos, tables, and cartoons have been provided throughout the book. They have been designed not only to spark students' interest but, more important, to reinforce comprehension and retention of the content through the use of substantial captions for the photos and detailed commentaries for the figures.



■ Key Terms

Important terms and concepts are boldfaced and defined when introduced in the text. They are then listed and defined again at the end of each chapter, with a page cross-reference to the text location of each item to facilitate study. Finally, all key terms with their definitions are compiled in the Glossary at the end of the book, and the first appearance of each key term is identified in the Subject Index.

■ Questions for Discussion and Review

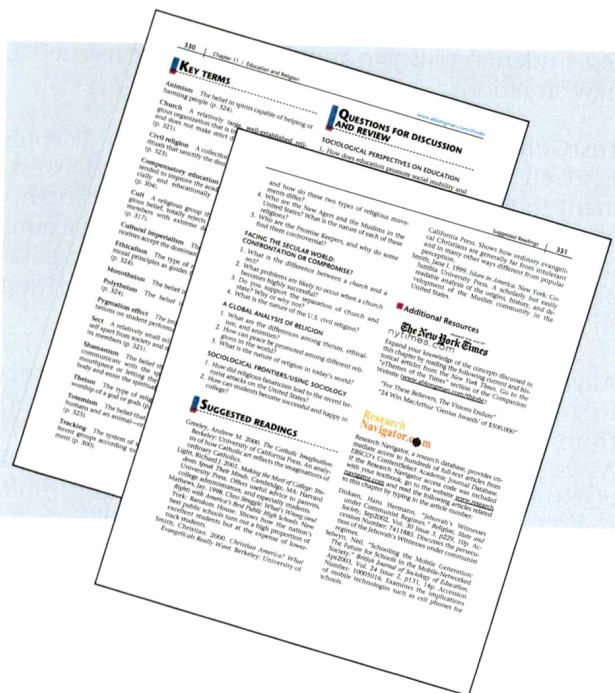
Near the end of each chapter are questions instructors can use as a springboard for lively discussion in class. Students can also use these questions, which are organized by major topic heading, to review the key ideas discussed in the chapter. Whether the questions are used in class, for individual review, or both, students will learn more as active thinkers than as recipients of ideas and facts.

■ Chapter Reviews

Each chapter ends with a substantive review of content in a question-and-answer format that is unique to this text. The standard form of summary that is typical of other texts tends to turn students into passive consumers of knowledge. In contrast, the question-and-answer format in this book encourages students to become actively involved by inviting them to join the author in thinking about important issues. Students who have actively thought about what they have read will more easily understand and remember the material later.

■ Suggested Readings and Additional Resources

To encourage further exploration of the chapter topic, suggestions for further reading are included at the end of each chapter. These suggestions include up-to-date books readily available in most college libraries. In addition, students are directed to Pearson's *ResearchNavigator* website to access relevant journal articles and to the text's Companion Website to view interesting and current articles from the *New York Times*.



UPDATED CONTENT

Sociology is a fast-growing field, and special care has been taken to present the significant changes that have recently taken place all over the world. Many of the studies and the data presented in this text are up to date. Current events, as reported in the nation's first-rate newspapers and newsmagazines, are also analyzed to demonstrate the relevance of sociology to today's world. In addition, no attempt has been made to gloss over or water down complex sociological issues, such as the death penalty, ethnic conflicts around the world, and welfare for the rich. Such issues are confronted head on but explained in a clear and interesting fashion.

The outpouring of sociological studies and news stories that have appeared over the last two years, since the previous edition of this text, has been reviewed and documented. As a result, this edition has been strengthened with a number of new materials, the most significant of which are listed here:

- **Chapter 1, *The Essence of Sociology*:** New data on the surge of patriotism in the United States, a new map showing the world as a global village, an updated U.S. map of suicide rates, recent research that debunks the "dumb jock" stereotype, a new discussion with a new map of women's participation in the Olympics, and an updated demonstration of how to conduct a survey
- **Chapter 2, *Society and Culture*:** A new discussion on how U.S. values have served Americans well in today's world, a new map on agricultural societies, a new figure on employment in postindustrial society, and new data on how Americans are working harder and longer than ever before
- **Chapter 3, *Socialization*:** New data on how teenagers talk with each other in New York City, an expanded discussion of the mass media to include the impact of the Internet on children, and a new map showing regional differences in parents' concern about their children having premarital sex and using drugs
- **Chapter 4, *Social Interaction in Everyday Life*:** An expanded discussion with new research on cooperation as a type of supportive interaction, a new map with new commentary about Internet communication around the world, a revision of the commentary about flying saucers, and an updating of a joke to include California's new governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger
- **Chapter 5, *Groups and Organizations*:** An expanded and revised discussion of the benefits of group diversity, a revised discussion with new data on the attributes of social networks, a revised discussion of the military, and a new section on the threat of organizations to privacy
- **Chapter 6, *Deviance and Control*:** A new chapter-opening vignette about two snipers terrorizing the residents of suburban Washington, D.C., in 2002, a new section about suicide bombing, a new global map showing where women have been raped during wars, a new world map of where suicide bombers operate, and a new map showing the global sex trade
- **Chapter 7, *U.S. and Global Stratification*:** An extensive revision of the section on class profiles, with new information about the upper-middle class, the middle class, and the working poor; an updated discussion with new data on poverty; new figures about the feminization of poverty and the changing percentages of the rich and the poor; and a new global maps of girls' primary school enrollment rates and women doing housework
- **Chapter 8, *Race and Ethnicity*:** A new chapter-opening vignette, new data on the cohesiveness of the Jewish community, a considerable update on the current status of affirmative action, and new information about the increasing prevalence of college-prep classes for minority students
- **Chapter 9, *Gender and Age*:** New data on gender difference in the duration of friendship, an updated discussion of female employment, an expanded discussion about elderly women faced with the difficulty of marriage, and new world maps portraying women in higher education and female genital circumcision

- *Chapter 10, Families:* An expanded discussion with new data on two-career families, an updated discussion on gay and lesbian marriages, and new data on solving marital problems with acceptance therapy
- *Chapter 11, Education and Religion:* A revision with new data on Head Start, discussion of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2002 ruling on the voucher program in Cleveland, new data on Native American students and Christian fundamentalists, a new section on the current condition of global religion, and a revision of the section on religious fanaticism and terrorism
- *Chapter 12, The Economy and Politics:* A new section on the global economy, a new section on corporate corruption, and an updated discussion of how to stop terrorists
- *Chapter 13, Health and Population:* An updating of the section on social diversity in U.S. health, a new section on the U.S. health care system, new data on today's anti-immigration policy, and a new map on smoking-related deaths around the world
- *Chapter 14, Environment and Urbanization:* A revision of the section on diminishing resources, a new discussion on Tokyo's plan to create an underground city, and an expansion of the discussion on how to use the so-called smart growth policy to curb the expansion of edge cities and suburbs
- *Chapter 15, Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change:* An updated discussion on the relative rarity of panics during a disaster, a significant revision of the section on crowds, a revision of the section on public opinion, a new section about the consequences of social movements, and an expanded and updated discussion on the changes in U.S. society

SUPPLEMENTS

For Instructors

Instructor's Manual. For each chapter in the text, the Instructor's Manual provides this information: a chapter summary; learning objectives; a lecture outline; a list of what's new in the sixth edition; key terms with page cross-references; classroom discussion topics and activities; and video and Internet resources.

Test Bank. The Test Bank contains hundreds of questions in multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and essay formats. Many of the multiple-choice questions

test students' ability to apply what they've learned to new situations.

TestGen Computerized Testing. Allyn & Bacon's TestGen is an integrated suite of testing and assessment tools for Windows and Macintosh. Instructors can use TestGen to create professional-looking exams in just minutes by selecting from the existing database of questions, editing those questions, or writing their own questions.

Allyn & Bacon/ABC News Video Library. Instructors can use the up-to-the-minute video segments from ABC news programs such as *Nightline*, *World News Tonight*, and *20/20* to launch lectures, spark classroom discussions, and encourage critical thinking. The topics available include race and ethnicity, stratification, gender, deviance, and aging.

Allyn & Bacon Transparencies for Introductory Sociology. This revised package includes over 125 color acetates, featuring illustrations from the most current Allyn & Bacon sociology titles.

PowerPoint Presentation. The PowerPoint lecture outlines created for this text provide dozens of ready-to-use graphic and text images. The full presentation is available on a cross-platform CD-ROM. PowerPoint software is not required to use this program, as a PowerPoint viewer to access the images is included.

Digital Media Archive III for Sociology (DMA). This CD-ROM for Windows and Macintosh contains hundreds of graphs, charts, and maps, all organized by topic, for use in supplementing lectures and illustrating key sociological concepts. It also includes 40 topical lectures with 20 to 50 PowerPoint slides for each. For classrooms with full multimedia capability, the DMA contains video segments and links to sociology websites.

Online Course Management. *CourseCompass*, powered by Blackboard and hosted nationally, is Allyn & Bacon's own course management system. Instructors will find it useful in managing all aspects of teaching a course. It features preloaded content to support an Introduction to Sociology course. For colleges and universities with *WebCT* and *Blackboard* licenses, special course management packages are available in these formats as well.

The Blockbuster Approach: A Guide to Teaching Sociology with Video (by Casey Jordan, Western Connecticut State University). This manual describes hundreds of commercially available videos that rep-

resent sociological ideas and themes, and provides sample assignments.

Sociology Video Library. Qualified adopters may select from a wide variety of high-quality videos from such sources as Films for the Humanities and Sciences and Annenberg/CPB. Some restrictions apply. (Contact your Allyn & Bacon/Longman representative for details.)

■ For Students

Study Guide with Flashcards. This manual contains summaries of key information for every chapter and practice tests to help students prepare for quizzes and exams. Flashcards of the key terms for every chapter are also provided.

Companion Website. Students who visit the Companion Website for the sixth edition (www.ablongman.com/thio6e) will find an online study guide with practice tests, learning objectives, and links to useful sociology sites on the Internet. In addition, there is an *eThemes of the Times* collection: 30 articles from the *New York Times* on topics of sociological interest.

Intersections: Readings to Accompany Sociology: A Brief Introduction, Sixth Edition (from Pearson Custom Publishing). The author of this text, Alex Thio, assembled a brief, inexpensive anthology of readings (one reading per chapter) from the Pearson Custom Publishing *Intersections* database to complement his book. The reader can be purchased separately or packaged with this text at a special price.

Sociology Tutor Center (Access Code Required). After-hours tutoring from qualified sociology instructors by phone, e-mail, or fax is available free to students when a Tutor Center Access Code is packaged with this text upon request.

Research Navigator (Access Code Required). This online research database is available free to students when the text is packaged upon request with the *Research Navigator Guide for Sociology*. Searchable by keyword, it provides access to thousands of full-text articles from scholarly social science journals, popular newspapers and magazines, and a one-year archive of the *New York Times*.

■ Additional Supplements

Doing Sociology with Student CHIP: Data Happy! Fourth Edition (by Gregg Lee Carter, Bryant College). This workbook with CHIP software is de-

signed for classes with an empirical orientation. The computer exercises allow students to explore sociological issues using real data.

Careers in Sociology, Third Edition (by W. Richard Stephens, Eastern Nazarene College). This supplement examines how people working as sociologists entered the field and describes how a degree in sociology can provide preparation for careers in areas such as law, gerontology, social work, and the computer industry. It is packaged free with the text upon request.

College and Society (by Stephen Sweet, Ithaca College). This supplemental text uses examples from familiar surroundings—the patterns of interaction, social structures, and expectations of conduct on a typical college campus—to help students see the ways in which the larger society operates.

Breaking the Ice, Third Edition (by Daisy Kabagarama, Montgomery College). This supplement aims to help students understand and appreciate cultural differences. It includes exercises to help readers identify their own biases. It, too, is packaged free with the text upon request.

Building Bridges: The Allyn & Bacon Guide to Service Learning (by Doris Hamner). This manual offers practical advice for students who must complete a service learning project as part of their required course work. It is packaged free with the text upon request.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to the numerous instructors all over the United States who have adopted past editions of this text. I am equally thankful for the invaluable help from many colleagues at various universities and colleges in reviewing the manuscript of the current edition. Unsolicited responses from adopters and insightful criticisms and suggestions from Allyn & Bacon's reviewers have helped me produce, I hope, the best brief text on introductory sociology available today. The reviewers for this current edition are as follows:

Naima Brown, Santa Fe Community College
Jared D. Cootz, Montgomery College
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Jay Hughes, Georgia Southern University
Jeanne Humble, Lexington Community College
Paul D. Roof, College of Charleston

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Alex Thio

About the Author

Alex Thio (pronounced TEE-oh) is Professor of Sociology at Ohio University. Born of Chinese parentage in Penang, Malaysia, he grew up in a multicultural environment. He acquired fluency in Mandarin (modern standard Chinese), two Chinese dialects (Fujianese and Hakka), Malay, and Indonesian. He also picked up a smattering of English and Dutch. He further took French and German in high school and college.

Professor Thio attended primary school in Malaysia and high school in Indonesia. He then came to the United States and worked his way through Central Methodist College in Missouri, where he majored in social sciences and took many literature and writing courses. Later, he studied sociology as a graduate student at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and he completed his doctorate while working as a research and teaching assistant.

Professor Thio regularly teaches courses in introductory sociology and deviance. In addition to teaching, he enjoys writing. Aside from this book, he is the author of the popular text *Deviant Behavior*, Seventh Edition (2004), and has written many articles. The author is grateful for the feedback he often receives from faculty and students, which he believes improves the quality of his books. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please write to him at the Department of Sociology, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 45701, or via e-mail (thio@ohio.edu).

Professor Thio lives in Athens, Ohio. His hobbies include traveling, moviegoing, and reading.



chapter

1

The Essence of Sociology



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