

Study Guide

for use with

SOCIOLOGY

A Brief Introduction

third edition



Richard T. Schaefer

Prepared by
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for use with
Sociology
A Brief Introduction

Third Edition

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Richard T. Schaefer

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INTRODUCTION

This study guide is designed to enhance your understanding of the discipline of sociology and to help you prepare for examinations covering *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*, 3rd Edition, by Richard T. Schaefer. Careful use of this supplement will assist you in reviewing discussions of sociological theory, important research findings, and social policy sections.

The study guide has been developed specifically to provide you with a clearer understanding of the assigned material. The organization is identical to that of the textbook: each chapter in the study guide corresponds directly to one of the 16 chapters in *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*, 3rd Edition. Within each chapter of the study guide, the material is presented in the same sequence as in the textbook and is keyed to page numbers in the text. Consequently, if you have problems with a particular subject or study guide exercise, you can return to the relevant pages in the text for further study.

You may find some sections of the study guide more helpful than others, but you should probably use all sections for the first few chapters until you learn what works best for you. Regardless of which sections you utilize, the study guide will be most valuable if you have read the textbook first. The purpose of the study guide is to assist you in reviewing the material after you have read an entire chapter of the text. We recommend waiting a day *after* reading the chapter and then turning to the study guide.

A *chapter outline* begins each chapter of the study guide; it presents the major topics of the chapter in the same order in which they appear in the text. If you review this outline and immediately recognize certain areas in which your comprehension is weak, you should probably return to the text before continuing your work with the study guide.

After the chapter outline comes a section of *key points*. In this section, 10 to 14 short excerpts from the chapter are summarized in

paragraph form, with glossary items highlighted and page references provided. These key points summarize the most important themes and concepts discussed in the chapter; they should be studied carefully before you proceed to later exercises in the study guide.

A list of *key terms* is included in each chapter of the study guide; each glossary item is presented in the order in which it appears in the textbook. Space is provided so that you can test yourself by filling in the definition of each term. Although these key terms appear in boldface in the text, this section of the study guide offers another opportunity to reinforce your understanding of the basic concepts used by sociologists. You may be tempted to check them off as you think to yourself, "I remember that," but it is important to write out the answers in the study guide. The very act of writing them out will reinforce your mastery of these terms. Once you have finished, you can check your answers against the correct definitions, which are included in the same study guide chapter.

The *self-test* for each chapter allows you to examine understanding of the text material. Each self-test includes 15 *modified true-false questions*, 15 *multiple choice questions*, and 15 *fill-in questions*. Page references and correct answers are provided for all sections of the self-test.

To gain the greatest benefits from the self-test sections, do not use them after a hurried initial skimming of the chapter. Instead, use the self-test as a practice examination only after you have thoroughly studied the textbook material. As you take the test, note your weak areas; keep track of the questions on which you find yourself guessing. Recognize how you may be misreading or misinterpreting certain types of questions. After you check your answers, return to and reread the textbook passages where your comprehension was weak. Even if your instructor uses broad short-answer questions or

essay questions on examinations, you will find the exercises in the self-test helpful in improving your understanding of the material in the textbook.

For each of the chapters in the textbook that ends with a social policy section, there is a corresponding exercise on *understanding social policy* in the study guide. These exercises ask questions about the social policy material in the text. Space is provided for your responses, and

correct answers are included later in the study guide chapter.

Through effective use of this study guide and effective study habits, your introduction to the discipline of sociology will be both meaningful and enjoyable.

Richard T. Schaefer
Mark Kassop

THE SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

The Sociological Imagination
Sociology and Common Sense

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Early Thinkers: Comte, Martineau, and
and Spencer
Émile Durkheim
Max Weber
Karl Marx
Modern Developments

MAJOR THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Functionalist Perspective
 Manifest and Latent Functions
 Dysfunctions
Conflict Perspective
 The Marxist View
 The Racial View
 The Feminist View
Interactionist Perspective
 The Sociological Approach

DEVELOPING THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

Theory in Practice
Research in Action
Speaking across Race, Gender, Class, and
National Boundaries
Social Policy Throughout the World

BOXES

1-1 RESEARCH IN ACTION: Decision
Making in the Jury Box

**1-2 SOCIOLOGY IN THE GLOBAL COM-
MUNITY:** Women in Public Places
Worldwide

KEY POINTS

The Sociological Imagination: In attempting to understand social behavior, sociologists rely on an unusual type of creative thinking. C. Wright Mills described such thinking as the *sociological imagination* -- an awareness of the relationship between an individual and the wider society. A key element in the sociological imagination is the ability to view one's own society as an outsider would, rather than from the limited perspective of personal experiences and cultural biases. (p. 5)

Émile Durkheim: Émile Durkheim (1858-1917) was appointed as one of the first professors of sociology in France. Above all, Durkheim will be remembered for his insistence that behavior cannot be fully understood in individualistic terms, and instead must be understood within a larger social context. In his landmark work, *Suicide*, published in 1897, Durkheim concluded that the suicide rates of a society reflected the extent to which people were or were not integrated into the group life of the society. (8)

Max Weber: Max Weber (1864-1920), a German sociologist, told his students that they should employ *Verstehen*, the German word for "understanding" or "insight," 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. We also owe credit to Weber for the key conceptual tool of the *ideal type*. In his own works, Weber identified various characteristics of bureaucracy as an ideal type. (9)

Karl Marx: Under the analysis of Karl Marx (1818-1883), society was fundamentally divided between classes who clash in pursuit of their own class interests. When Marx examined the industrial societies of his time, he saw the factory as the center of conflict between the exploiters (the owners of the means of production) and the exploited (the workers). In *The Communist Manifesto*, which first appeared in 1848, Marx and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) argued that factory workers (whom they referred to as *proletariat*) should unite to fight for the overthrow of capitalist societies. (9)

Functionalist Perspective: In the view of functionalists, society is like a living organism, in which each part of the organism contributes to its survival. Therefore, the *functionalist perspective* emphasizes the way that parts of a society are structured to maintain its stability. For over four decades, Harvard University sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902-1979) dominated sociology in the United States with his advocacy of functionalism. Parsons saw any society as a vast network of connected parts, each of which contributes to the maintenance of the system as a whole. (12)

Conflict Perspective: In contrast to functionalists' emphasis on stability and consensus, conflict sociologists see the social world in continual struggle. 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 -- including the family, government, religion, education, and the media -- may help to maintain

the privileges of some groups and keep others in a subservient position. One important contribution of conflict theory is that it has encouraged sociologists to view society through the eyes of those segments of the population who rarely influence decision making, such as Blacks and women. (13)

Interactionist Perspective: The *interactionist perspective* generalizes about fundamental or everyday forms of social interaction. It is a sociological framework for viewing human beings as living in a world of meaningful objects. The "objects" may include material things, actions, other people, relationships, and even symbols. George Herbert Mead (1863-1931) is widely regarded as the founder of the interactionist perspective. (15)

KEY TERMS

Briefly define or identify the following terms in the spaces provided below. The definitions of these terms can be found later in this chapter of the study guide.

Sociology systematic study of
society and human behavior

Sociological imagination Ability to
distinguish between personal
troubles and public issues
understanding the connection

Verstehen - German word for
understanding or insight
into the meaning of human
action

Ideal type - A model that serves as
a measuring rod against
which actual cases can be
evaluated

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

Microsociology sociological investigation
that stresses the study
of small groups and often
uses laboratory
experimental studies

Functionalist perspective A sociological
approach that emphasizes
way that parts of a society
are structured to maintain
its stability.
Manifest functions
open, stated, or conscious
functions.

Latent functions
unconscious or unintended
functions; hidden purposes

Dysfunctions An element or part
of society that may disrupt
a social system or lead to
decrease in social stability

Conflict perspective A sociological approach
that assumes that social behavior
is best understood in conflict
or tension between competing
groups.

Interactionist perspective A sociological
approach that generalizes
about fundamental or
everyday forms of
social interaction.

SELF-TEST

MODIFIED TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS: If the statement below is true, write "true" in the space provided. If the statement is false, briefly correct the error.

1. Sociology is concerned only with how major social institutions like the government, religion, and the economy affect us. *False. Sociology is a broad field of study that examines social institutions and how behavior is influenced by others.*
2. In the aftermath of natural disasters, a community's social organization and structure tend to collapse. *False. In the aftermath of natural disasters, greater social organization and function emerge to deal with a community's problems.*
3. The term sociology was coined by French theorist Émile Durkheim. *False. The term sociology was coined by Auguste Comte.*
4. The French sociologist Harriet Martineau applied Charles Darwin's evolutionary concepts to societies. *False. Herbert Spencer applied Charles Darwin's evolutionary concepts to societies.*
5. Émile Durkheim concluded that the suicide rates of a society reflected the extent to which people were or were not integrated into the group life of the society. *True*
6. When Max Weber discussed the ideal bureaucracy, he was focusing on the best type of organization that was possible. *False. When Max Weber discussed the ideal ~~best~~ bureaucracy, he was providing a useful standard for measuring how bureaucratic*
7. Karl Marx argued that the working class needed to overthrow the existing class system. *True* *a*

8. Émile Durkheim was the first modern-day sociologist to focus on small groups and relationships. *False. Charles Horton Cooley was the first modern-day sociologist to focus on small groups and relationships.*
9. George Herbert Mead emphasized that sociology should strive to bring together the "macro" and "micro" level approaches to the study of society. *False. Robert Merton emphasized that sociology should strive to bring together the "micro" and "macro" level approaches.*
10. Microsociology concentrates on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations. *False. Macrosociology concentrates on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations.*
11. Talcott Parsons dominated sociology in the United States for over four decades with his advocacy of the interactionist perspective. *False. Talcott Parsons dominated sociology in the United States for over four decades with his advocacy of the functionalist perspective.*
12. Throughout most of the twentieth century, sociology in the United States was influenced primarily by the conflict perspective. *False. Throughout most of the twentieth century, sociology in the United States was influenced primarily by the functionalist perspective.*
13. George Herbert Mead is widely regarded as the founder of the interactionist perspective.
True
14. Interactionists see symbols as an especially important part of human communication.
True
15. Sociologist Carol Brooks Gardner views public places as innocuous settings in which strangers either leave each other alone or interact politely. *True False. Erving Goffman viewed public places as innocuous settings. Carol Brooks Gardner views them as arenas for the enactment of inequalities for women and others.*

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: In each of the following, select the phrase that best completes the statement

1. Sociology is concerned with:
- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> a. patterns of human behavior | b. the behavior of an individual |
| c. random human actions | d. all of the above |

2. Which of the following is most closely associated with the concept of the sociological imagination?
 - a. Émile Durkheim
 - b. Max Weber
 - c. Karl Marx
 - ☒ d. C. Wright Mills
3. In *Society in America*, which early sociologist gave special attention to status distinctions and to such factors as gender and race?
 - a. Émile Durkheim
 - b. Max Weber
 - c. Auguste Comte
 - ☒ d. Harriet Martineau
4. In his study of suicide, Émile Durkheim was primarily concerned with:
 - ☒ a. suicide rates and how they varied from country to country
 - b. personalities of individual suicide victims
 - c. means people used to take their own lives
 - d. effects of suicide on the families of victims
5. Which one of the following concepts did Max Weber introduce to the field of sociology?
 - a. dramaturgy
 - ☒ b. ideal types
 - c. functionalism
 - d. macrosociology
6. *The Communist Manifesto* was written by:
 - ☒ a. Karl Marx and Georg Hegel
 - b. Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx
 - ☒ c. George Herbert Mead and Jane Addams
 - d. Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton
7. Which sociologist cofounded the famous Chicago settlement house, Hull House?
 - a. Charles Horton Cooley
 - ☒ b. Jane Addams
 - c. George Herbert Mead
 - d. C. Wright Mills
8. Robert Merton's contributions to sociology include:
 - a. successfully combining theory and research
 - b. an analysis of deviant behavior that focuses on societal goals and means
 - c. an attempt to bring macro and micro level analyses together
 - ☒ d. all of the above
9. Which sociological perspective views society as a network of connected parts, each of which contributes to the maintenance of the system as a whole?
 - ☒ a. functionalist perspective
 - b. conflict perspective
 - c. interactionist perspective
 - d. dramaturgical perspective
10. A university that serves as a meeting ground for people seeking marital partners is performing:
 - a. a manifest function
 - ☒ b. a latent function
 - c. a dysfunction
 - d. a manifest dysfunction

11. Karl Marx's view of the struggle between social classes inspired the contemporary:
 - a. functionalist perspective
 - ☒ b. conflict perspective
 - c. interactionist perspective
 - d. dramaturgical approach
12. Which of the following was an early Black sociologist, active in the struggle for a racially egalitarian society, who was critical of theorists who seemed content with the status quo?
 - a. Harriet Martineau
 - b. Herbert Spencer
 - c. Booker T. Washington
 - ☒ d. W. E. B. Du Bois
13. Which sociological perspective examines sports on the micro level by focusing on how day-to-day social behavior is shaped by the distinctive norms, values, and demands of the world of sports?
 - a. functionalist perspective
 - b. conflict perspective
 - ☒ c. interactionist perspective
 - d. psychological perspective
14. Which of the following sociologists never wrote a book and about whose thoughts most of our knowledge is presented in an edited volume of his lectures published by his students after his death?
 - ☒ a. George Herbert Mead
 - b. Karl Marx
 - c. Émile Durkheim
 - d. Max Weber
15. Erving Goffman made a distinctive contribution to sociology by popularizing a particular type of interactionist method known as:
 - a. macrosociology
 - ☒ b. the dramaturgical approach
 - c. *Verstehen*
 - d. "I'm O.K., you're O.K."

FILL-IN QUESTIONS: Fill in the blank spaces in the sentences below with the correct words. Where two or more words are required, there will be a corresponding number of blank spaces.

1. All sociological studies are united by their focus on patterns of human behavior.
2. While the findings of sociologists may at times seem like common sense, they have been tested by researchers.
3. In *Society in America*, originally published in 1837, English scholar Harriet Martineau examined religion, politics, child rearing and immigration in the young nation.
4. Herbert 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.

5. Émile Durkheim noted that while suicide is a solitary act, it is related to group life and that Protestants, unmarried individuals, and soldiers were more likely to commit suicide than Catholics, married individuals, and citizens.
6. Max Weber's concern for a value-free, objective sociology was a direct response to Marx's deeply held convictions.
7. Karl Marx's pioneering work in has led contemporary sociologists to focus on how membership in a particular gender classification, age group, racial group, or economic class affects a person's attitudes and behavior.
8. In the early 1900s, sociologist Charles Horton Cooley saw smaller groups as the seedbeds of society.
9. Émile Durkheim's cross-cultural study of suicide, examinations of international crime rates, stereotypes of Asian Americans as a "model minority", and population patterns of Islamic countries are all examples of macrosociology.
10. Talcott Parsons saw society as a vast network of connected parts, each of which helps to maintain the system as a whole.
11. The university's role in certifying academic competence and excellence is an example of a manifest function.
12. In contrast to functionalists' emphasis on stability and consensus, conflict theorists see the social world in continuous struggle.
13. Feminist scholars have argued for a gender-balanced study of society in which women's experiences and contributions are as visible as those of men.
14. Feminist theory is built on conflict theory in that it sees gender differences as a reflection of the subjugation of women by men.
15. The interactionist perspective would note that shared television viewing habits may promote friendships.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Sociology: The systematic study of social behavior and human groups. (5)

Sociological imagination: An awareness of the relationship between an individual and the wider society. (5)

Verstehen: The German word for “understanding” or “insight”; used by Max Weber to stress the need for sociologists to take into account people’s emotions, thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes. (9)

Ideal type: A construct or model that serves as a measuring rod against which actual cases can be evaluated. (9)

Macrosociology: Sociological investigation that concentrates on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations. (12)

Microsociology: Sociological investigation that stresses study of small groups and often uses laboratory experimental studies. (12)

Functionalist perspective: A sociological approach that emphasizes the way that parts of a society are structured to maintain its stability. (12)

Manifest functions: Open, stated, and conscious functions. (13)

Latent functions: Unconscious or unintended functions; hidden purposes. (13)

Dysfunctions: An element or a process of society that may disrupt a social system or lead to a decrease in stability. (13)

Conflict perspective: A sociological approach that assumes that social behavior is best understood in terms of conflict or tension between competing groups. (13)

Interactionist perspective: A sociological approach that generalizes about fundamental or everyday forms of social interaction. (15)

Nonverbal communication: The sending of messages through the use of posture, facial expressions, and gestures. (15)

Dramaturgical approach: A view of social interaction, popularized by Erving Goffman, under which people are examined as if they were theatrical performers. (15)

ANSWERS TO SELF-TEST

Modified True-False Questions

1. Sociology is a broad field of study that examines social institutions and how behavior is influenced by others. (5)
2. In the aftermath of natural disasters, greater social organization and structure emerge to deal with a community’s problems. (7)
3. The term *sociology* was coined by Auguste Comte. (7)
4. Herbert Spencer applied Charles Darwin’s evolutionary concepts to societies. (8)
5. True (8)
6. When Max Weber discussed the ideal bureaucracy he was providing a useful standard for measuring how bureaucratic an actual organization was. (9)
7. True (10)
8. Charles Horton Cooley was the first modern-day sociologist to focus on small groups and relationships. (11)
9. Robert Merton emphasized that sociology should strive to bring together the “macro” and “micro” level approaches to the study of society. (12)
10. Macrosociology concentrates on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations. Microsociology stresses study of small groups. (12)

11. Talcott Parsons dominated sociology in the United States for over four decades with his advocacy of the functionalist perspective. (12)
12. Throughout most of the twentieth century, sociology in the United States was influenced primarily by the functionalist perspective. (13)
13. True (15)
14. True (15)
15. Erving Goffman viewed public places as innocuous settings. Carol Brooks Gardner sees them as arenas for the enactment of inequality for women and others. (20)

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 1. a (5) | 4. a (8) | 7. b (11) | 10. b (13) | 13. c (15) |
| 2. d (5) | 5. b (9) | 8. d (12) | 11. b (14) | 14. a (15) |
| 3. d (8) | 6. b (10) | 9. a (12) | 12. d (14) | 15. b (15) |

Fill-In Questions

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. patterns (5) | 9. macrosociology (12) |
| 2. tested (7) | 10. Talcott Parsons (12) |
| 3. Harriet Martineau (8) | 11. latent (13) |
| 4. Herbert Spencer (8) | 12. conflict (13) |
| 5. Émile Durkheim (8) | 13. Feminist (14) |
| 6. Max Weber's (9) | 14. Feminist (14) |
| 7. Karl Marx's (11) | 15. interactionist (15) |

2

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Defining the Problem
Reviewing the Literature
Formulating the Hypothesis
Selecting a Research Design and Collecting
and Analyzing the Data
Developing the Conclusion

RESEARCH DESIGNS

Surveys
Observation
Experiments
Use of Existing Sources

ETHICS OF RESEARCH

Accident or Suicide?
Preserving Confidentiality
Neutrality and Politics in Research

BOXES

2-1 Research in Action: Survey Question

2-2 Sociology in the Global Community:

Assessing Alcoholism in a Caribbean
Nation

KEY POINTS

The Scientific Method: The *scientific method* is a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem. There are five basic steps in the scientific method: defining the problem, reviewing the literature, formulating the hypothesis, selecting the research design and then collecting and analyzing data, and developing the conclusion. (27)

Research Designs for Collecting Data: A *research design* is a detailed plan or method for obtaining data scientifically. Selection of a research design is a critical step for sociologists; this choice will directly influence both the cost of the project and the amount of time needed to collect the results of the research. Sociologists regularly use surveys, observation, experiments, and existing sources to generate data for their research. (30)

Ethics of Research: In 1971, The American Sociological Association, the professional society of the discipline, first published *Code of Ethics*. It includes the following basic principles: maintain objectivity and integrity in research, respect the subject's right to privacy and dignity, protect subjects from personal harm, preserve confidentiality, acknowledge research collaboration and assistance, and disclose all sources of financial support. (36)

Technology and Sociological Research: The increased speed and capacity of computers have enabled sociologists to handle much larger sets of data, and anyone with a desktop computer and a modem can access information to learn more about social behavior. The Internet is an inexpensive way to reach large numbers of potential respondents and get a quick return of responses. However, the ease of access to information has led to new research problems: How do you protect a respondent's anonymity and how do you define the potential audience? (40)

KEY TERMS

Briefly define or identify the following terms in the spaces provided below. The definitions of these terms can be found later in this chapter of the study guide.

Scientific method *A systematic organized series of steps that e*

Independent variable

Dependent variable

the influence variable.

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH