

Five stylized human figures are drawn in a row at the top of the cover. From left to right, they are colored orange, green, red, yellow, and purple. Each figure is composed of a simple outline with a rounded head and a rectangular body. The figures are positioned above a dark blue horizontal band.

# SOCIOLOGY

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

ALEX THIO

PROFESSIONAL  
EDITION

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SECOND EDITION

SECOND EDITION

# Sociology

*A Brief Introduction*

ALEX THIO  
OHIO UNIVERSITY



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### **Sociology: A Brief Introduction, Second Edition**

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# *Sociology*

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## PREFACE

This new edition of *Sociology: A Brief Introduction* is a major revision. I have, however, continued to present the essentials of sociology without a loss of substance or concreteness. In pruning away those topics that are not essential for learning about sociological issues, I have concentrated on major areas in depth but with enough lively details to maintain student interest. Although this text is relatively short, it provides instructors and students with the full range of sociological analyses and issues. To ensure that students learn a great deal from this brief text, I have retained most of the successful features of my full-length book. I have also tried to convey the sense of excitement that I feel about sociology.

Many students seem to assume that sociology is merely common sense—that there is nothing new in sociology, or that whatever is there they have known all along. To help students recognize how much their unexamined assumptions affect the way they view the world, I begin each chapter with a set of popular myths and the realities behind them that have been uncovered through sociological research. These myths and realities are further discussed, along with many others, throughout the text. Students will find some of their firmest assumptions challenged, and that should lead to increased interest in the materials of the course.

The discussion in each chapter also begins with a real-life vignette that is designed to dramatize the central theme of the chapter, showing how abstract sociological principles reflect underlying realities and illuminate them.

### New to This Edition

This text has been thoroughly revised and updated. All the real-life vignettes are new, portraying current events in our fast-changing world. There are consider-

ably more tables and figures than in the previous edition. And the subject of education is now combined in a single chapter with science and health. This edition is packed with new topics, of which only the most significant are listed below.

#### Chapter 1: The Essence of Sociology

- Jane Addams is included as one of the founders of American sociology. (She has long been ignored in textbooks, despite her rare distinction of being the only sociologist to have won the Nobel Prize.)
- A new section on the feminist perspective in sociology.

#### Chapter 2: Culture

- A new section on American pop culture.

#### Chapter 3: Social Structure

- A new section containing a sociological analysis of the reasons for Japan's emergence as an economic giant.

#### Chapter 4: Groups and Organizations

- A new discussion on female styles of managing business organizations.

#### Chapter 5: Socialization

- Updated information on the effect of environment on intelligence.
- An entirely new section on the processes of socialization: learning how to think, feel, and see oneself, which replaces the psychological theories of personality development. This section incorporates new information on emotional socialization.
- A new section on the influence of gender and class on adolescent peer groups.

- Updated information on the effects of television on socialization.

#### Chapter 6: Deviance and Control

- An updated section on rape, emphasizing date rape, especially on college campuses.
- A cross-cultural analysis of homicide.
- A new section on control theory, including the new "shaming theory."
- A new section on the feminist theory of deviance.
- These added sociological theories replace the biological and psychological theories.
- A new section on the war on drugs.

#### Chapter 7: Social Stratification

- A new section on poverty, welfare, and homelessness.
- A new section on the feminization of poverty.
- A new section on global stratification.
- New data on the widening gap between the rich and the poor.
- A new section on how to achieve social equality.

#### Chapter 8: Racial and Ethnic Minorities

- A new section on affirmative action and its critics.
- New data on the victimization of African-Americans by stereotypes and legal harassment.
- Updated information on bilingual education involving Hispanic-Americans.
- New material on the problems of "glass ceiling" and "model minority" faced by Asian-Americans.

#### Chapter 9: Gender and Age

- Updated information on gender discrimination in employment.
- A new section on gender bias in religion.
- A new section on gender bias in sports.
- An updated section on the presentation of gender roles in the mass media.
- A new section on elder abuse.

#### Chapter 10: The Family

- New data on sex myths.

- A new section on the battle over abortion.
- A new section on marriage choice.
- A new section on stepfamilies.
- Updated information on staying single and the changing American family.

#### Chapter 11: Religion

- A significantly updated section on religious fundamentalism.
- New sections each on New Age and Islam.
- A new section on religious television.

#### Chapter 12: Politics and the Economy

- A new section on the power to declare war.
- Updated information on political participation.
- A new section on the revolutions in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- Updated information on terrorism.
- New data on the postindustrial world.
- Updated sections on capitalist and socialist economies
- A new section on the American economy today.
- New data on the surge in temporary employment.

#### Chapter 13: Education, Science, and Health

- Significantly updated information on AIDS.
- A new section on the changing medical profession.
- A new section on the right to die.

#### Chapter 14: Population, Ecology, and Urbanization

- A new section on the latest U.S. census.
- Significantly updated information on environmental pollution.
- A new section on saving the environment.
- A new section on the growth of suburban cities.
- A new section on the recent changes in American cities.

#### Chapter 15: Collective Behavior and Social Change

- A new section, "Is the United States in Decline?"
- New information on the demassification of society.

## Organization

The book covers all the essential topics for an introductory sociology course. The first chapter introduces students to the essence of sociology, showing them how to think sociologically and how to do sociology. Major sociological perspectives and research methods are presented here. Chapters 2 through 5 examine the social bases of human behavior—culture, social structure, groups and organizations, and socialization. These are followed by a chapter on deviant behavior, as an illustration of how even seemingly personal actions are socially motivated. Chapters 7 through 9 analyze various forms of human inequality. They include the inequality between rich and poor, between dominant and minority groups, between males and females, and between old and young. Chapters 10 through 13 deal with major social institutions—the family, religion, politics, economics, education, science, and medicine. In the final two chapters, I discuss those aspects of society that change most visibly. They are population, ecology, urbanization, collective behavior (including social movements), and social change.

## Features

### SCHOLARSHIP AND READABILITY

This book offers a unique blend of scholarship and readability. I have tried not to gloss over complex sociological issues but to confront them head-on. Although I have taken great care to be fair and accurate in discussing the various theoretical and empirical studies, I have also critiqued them, evaluated them, or related them to other studies. Further, I have applied the major sociological perspectives—introduced in the first chapter—throughout the text, wherever they can throw light on a specific subject. It has been my goal to make complex sociological ideas easy for students to follow. To achieve this, I have written simply and directly, avoiding the use of long and complicated sentences, but without any condescension.

### CURRENT RESEARCH

I have taken special care to present the most recent findings from the sociological literature. Sociology is

a fast-growing field. In recent years it has produced an abundance of new concepts and data, reflecting the significant changes that have recently taken place in American society. Thus many references cited in this text are as recent as 1992 and 1993. I have also discussed, with a sociological interpretation, numerous current events reported in first-class newspapers and newsmagazines.

### PEDAGOGICAL AIDS

In order to ensure that students get the most out of this course, I have developed a comprehensive system of pedagogical aids. The overall goal of these teaching devices is to motivate students and facilitate learning. Students are encouraged to think about the materials by themselves or by discussing important issues in class. It is frequently through such active involvement, as opposed to passive acceptance of what one reads, that students really begin to sharpen their thinking skills. Then the understanding and absorption of ideas presented in the text will come easily.

**Chapter Vignettes** Along with a chapter outline and a myths and realities box, each chapter opens with a thought-provoking story. This is intended to fix the student's mind on the main themes of the chapter.

**Illustrations and Captions** The photographs have been selected to illuminate key ideas throughout the text. The captions have been purposely written to recapitulate those key ideas. Together, the photos and captions reinforce the student's comprehension and retention of the material.

**Questions for Discussion and Review** In every chapter there are questions at the end of each main section. Instructors can use them as a springboard for lively discussions in class. Students can use them to review the main ideas that have just been discussed, before moving on to the next topic. However the questions are used, students will learn more as active thinkers than as passive recipients of facts and ideas.

**Chapter Summaries** Each chapter ends with a full summary in a question-and-answer format. The standard form of summary in an introductory text tends to turn students into passive consumers of knowledge. In contrast, the question-and-answer format 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 it later.

**Key Terms** The most important words are identified in the text with boldface type and are defined when they are introduced. They are listed and defined again at the end of each chapter, with a page cross-reference to facilitate study. All key terms are also defined in full in the Glossary at the end of the book.

**Suggested Readings** In line with the currentness of the material in the text, the most up-to-date books for further reading are listed at the end of each chapter. These sources enable students to seek additional knowledge about the subject matter of each chapter. Most books are readily available in school libraries.

## Supplements

Accompanying this text is a useful support package for instructors and students.

### SOCIETIES: A MULTI-CULTURAL READER

A collection of 38 relatively brief articles, all related to cross-cultural issues, has been assembled by Peter Morrill of Bronx Community College. There are two to three readings for each chapter in the text. The great variety of topics covered will help students appreciate cultural diversity within the United States and will also illustrate how ways of life in other societies can differ from the familiar world they know. Each reading begins with a short introduction that relates the material to key concepts in the text and ends with a short set of study questions.

### INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL

Prepared by Peter Morrill of Bronx Community College, this manual provides chapter outlines, learning objectives, a complete summary of chapter topics, and an extensive set of classroom discussion questions keyed to main topics. Each chapter also includes demonstrations, projects, and applications that are designed to develop the thinking skills of students. The *Instructor's Manual* ends with an exten-

sive list of audiovisual aids and their sources. The goal of the manual is to enable instructors to show students how to think effectively about sociological topics. In addition, students are helped not only to master the material of the course but also to take an active role in learning it.

### TEST BANK

The *Test Bank*, also prepared by Peter Morrill, contains over 1100 multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions. The *Test Bank* is available as a printed manual and on Testmaster. Testmaster is Harper-Collins' computerized test-generating system. It produces customized tests and allows instructors to scramble questions and add new ones. Testmaster is available for use with IBM PC and compatibles, and the Macintosh.

### STUDY GUIDE

A *Study Guide*, also prepared by Professor Morrill, is a substantial book in its own right. Each chapter opens with an outline of the chapter in the text, a list of learning objectives, a detailed review of the material designed to get the student deep into the particulars of the chapter, and numerous questions and answers to check the student's knowledge.

### SUPERSHELL STUDENT TUTORIAL SOFTWARE

Prepared by Peter Morrill, this computerized student tutorial guide is designed to help students retain the key concepts and ideas they have read. This versatile drill-and-practice software contains questions for each chapter in the text which provide students with immediate feedback. Questions are referenced to the pages in the text where relevant information is presented. Students may print out narrative chapter outlines or consult an easy-to-use tutorial guide. In addition, a flash card program is included to drill students on the terms in the text's glossary.

## Acknowledgments

I am grateful to the many instructors all over the country who have adopted the previous edition of this book. I would also like to thank many colleagues



at various universities and colleges for reviewing the manuscript of this edition. Their criticisms and suggestions have enabled me to continue writing a textbook that is both challenging and interesting to students. The reviewers include: Tim Britton, Lenoir Community College; Mary L. Cain, Our Lady of the Lake University; Alline DeVore, Kingsborough Community College; Patricia Dorman, Boise State University; Ralph Faris, Community College of Philadelphia; Thesalonia Ford, St. Louis Community College; Gerald Freeman, Broom Community College; Mark Geller, Rutgers University; David Jaffe, SUNY-New Paltz; Michael Kimmel, University of California-Berkeley; Diane Levy, University of Wilmington; Charles Mulford, Iowa State University; Daniel Polak, Hudson Valley Community College; Earl Schaeffer, Columbus State Community College; and Jeff Weaver, Defiance College.

I am particularly thankful to Peter Morrill of Bronx Community College. His tireless pursuit of ap-

propriate articles for *Societies* and his work on the *Study Guide*, *Test Bank*, and the *Instructor's Manual* have contributed immensely to the text's support package.

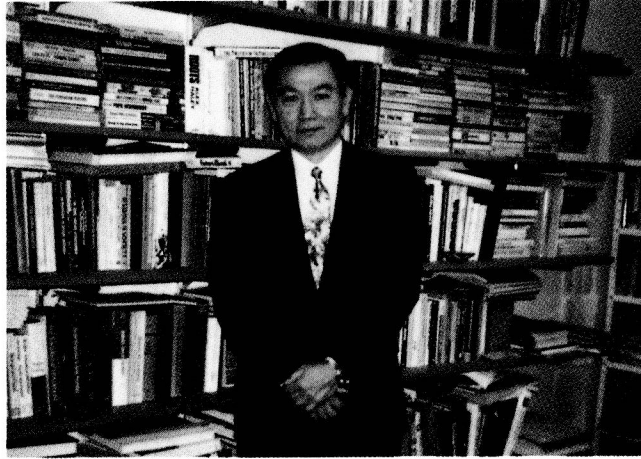
I owe a special debt to several people at HarperCollins. Alan McClare, the sociology editor, has over the years made me feel that it is a pleasure to write textbooks for HarperCollins. The meticulous editorial supervision of Philip Herbst, the development editor, has greatly enhanced the quality of this revised text. Ellen MacElree, the project editor, has efficiently guided the production of the book. Julie Conway, supplements editor, has assembled an effective teaching and learning package.

Finally, I am grateful to my wife and children for their understanding and patience. They have made it possible for me to take a lot of pleasure, without much guilt, in writing this book.

ALEX THIO

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Alex Thio 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 (Fukienese and Hakka), Malay, and Indonesian. He also picked up a smattering of English and Dutch.

After attending primary school in Malaysia and high school in Indonesia, he came to the United States and put himself through college in Missouri. Later, he did graduate work in sociology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he completed his doctorate while working as a research and teaching assistant.

Dr. Thio regularly teaches courses on introductory sociology, social problems, criminology, and deviance. In addition to teaching, he enjoys writing. Aside from this text, he is author of the popular texts *Deviant Behavior* and *Sociology: An Introduction*, both of which are published by HarperCollins, and has written many articles.

He lives with his wife Jane and daughters Diane and Julie in Athens, Ohio. His hobbies include reading, movies, traveling, and sailing.

## CONTENTS IN BRIEF

*Contents in Detail* vi  
*Preface* xi  
*About the Author* xvii

Chapter 1 The Essence of Sociology 2  
Chapter 2 Culture 30  
Chapter 3 Social Structure 48  
Chapter 4 Groups and Organizations 70  
Chapter 5 Socialization 90  
Chapter 6 Deviance and Control 110  
Chapter 7 Social Stratification 136  
Chapter 8 Racial and Ethnic Minorities 164  
Chapter 9 Gender and Age 196

Chapter 10 The Family 222  
Chapter 11 Religion 248  
Chapter 12 Politics and the Economy 276  
Chapter 13 Education, Science, and Health 306  
Chapter 14 Population, Ecology, and  
Urbanization 336  
Chapter 15 Collective Behavior and Social  
Change 364

*Glossary* 393  
*References* 401  
*Credits* 431  
*Name Index* 432  
*Subject Index* 438

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# CONTENTS IN DETAIL

*Preface* xi  
*About the Author* xvii

## Chapter 1

### The Essence of Sociology 2

The Study of Social Life 3

The Sociological Imagination 4 ■ Sociology and  
Common Sense 5 ■ Sociology as a Science 7

The Development of Sociology 7

The Pioneers of Sociology 8 ■ American  
Sociology 9

Sociological Perspectives 11

The Functionalist Perspective 11 ■ The Conflict  
Perspective 13 ■ The Symbolic Interactionist Per-  
spective 13 ■ The Feminist Perspective 15 ■  
An Integrated View 17

Major Research Methods 18

Survey 18 ■ Observation 21 ■ Experiment  
23 ■ Analyzing Existing Data 24

Chapter Review 26

Key Terms 27

Suggested Readings 28

## Chapter 2

### Culture 30

The Cognitive Component 32

The Normative Component 32

Norms 33 ■ Values 34

The Symbolic Component 36

Animal and Human Communication 36 ■ Non-  
verbal Communication 37 ■ The Influence of  
Language 38 ■ American Pop Culture 39

Evolution and Culture 40

Cultural Variations 41

Ethnocentrism 42 ■ Cultural Relativism 43 ■

Ecological and Functional Perspectives 45

Chapter Review 46

Key Terms 47

Suggested Readings 47

## Chapter 3

### Social Structure 48

Societies 50

Statuses and Roles 51 ■ Preindustrial Societies  
54 ■ Industrial Societies 57 ■ Japanese Society  
58 ■ Are We Prisoners of Society? 60

Social Interaction 62

Exchange 62 ■ Cooperation 63 ■ Competi-  
tion 63 ■ Conflict 64

Social Networks 65

Characteristics 65 ■ Effects 67

Chapter Review 67

Key Terms 68

Suggested Readings 69

## Chapter 4

### Groups and Organizations 70

Social Groups 72

In-groups, Out-groups, and Reference Groups 72 ■  
Primary and Secondary Groups 74 ■ Small  
Groups 75

Formal Organizations 77

Organizational Models 78

Scientific Management 79 ■ Human Relations  
79 ■ Ideal-Type Bureaucracy 80 ■ Collectivist  
Organization 81

The Realities of Bureaucracy 84

Bureaucratic Vices 84 ■ Bureaucratic Virtues 85  
■ The Changing Bureaucracy 86

Chapter Review 87

Key Terms 88

Suggested Readings 89



**Chapter 5****Socialization 90**

## Nature and Nurture 92

The Significance of Heredity 92 ■ The Significance of Socialization 93

## Processes of Socialization 95

Learning How to Think 95 ■ Learning How to Feel 96 ■ Learning How to See Oneself 98

## Agents of Socialization 100

The Family 100 ■ The School 101 ■ The Peer Group 102 ■ The Mass Media 103

## Adult Socialization 104

Learning New Roles 104 ■ Erikson: Adult Life Cycle 105 ■ Aging and Dying 106

## Chapter Review 108

## Key Terms 108

## Suggested Readings 108

**Chapter 6****Deviance and Control 110**

## Deviance in America 113

What Is Deviance? 113 ■ Murder 114 ■ Rape 115 ■ Corporate Crime 117 ■ Mental Illness 119 ■ Is Deviance Always Harmful? 120

## Sociological Theories 121

Anomie 121 ■ Differential Association 123 ■ Control 123 ■ Labeling 124 ■ Conflict 125 ■ Feminist Theory 127

## Controlling Deviance 128

Social Control 128 ■ Criminal Justice 128 ■ The War on Drugs 131

## Chapter Review 132

## Key Terms 133

## Suggested Readings 134

**Chapter 7****Social Stratification 136**

## The Bases of Stratification 138

Wealth 138 ■ Power 139 ■ Prestige 140

## American Class Structure 142

Identifying Classes 142 ■ Class Profiles 144 ■ Poverty, Welfare, and Homelessness 145 ■ The Influence of Class 151

## Global Stratification 153

## Social Mobility 154

Patterns 155 ■ Sources 156

## Is Stratification Necessary? 158

Functionalist Theory 158 ■ Conflict Theory 158 ■ Comparing the Theories 159 ■ Toward Social Equality 159

## Chapter Review 160

## Key Terms 161

## Suggested Readings 162

**Chapter 8****Racial and Ethnic Minorities 164**

## Identifying Minorities 166

Race 166 ■ Ethnicity 168 ■ Minority 168

## Prejudice and Discrimination 169

Individual Reactions to Minorities 169 ■ Institutionalized Discrimination 171 ■ Affirmative Action and Its Critics 171 ■ Sources and Consequences 173

## Racial and Ethnic Relations 175

Forms of Rejection 176 ■ Forms of Acceptance 177

## Minority Groups in America 179

Native Americans 179 ■ African-Americans 181 ■ Hispanic-Americans 184 ■ Asian-Americans 187 ■ Jewish-Americans 189 ■ White Ethnics 191

## Chapter Review 193

## Key Terms 193

## Suggested Readings 194

**Chapter 9****Gender and Age 196**

## Gender Roles and Inequalities 198

Masculine and Feminine in America 198 ■ Sexism 199 ■ Education 201 ■ Jobs and Money 202 ■ Politics 203 ■ Religion 204 ■ Sports 205

## Sources of Gender Roles and Inequalities 206

Biological Constraints 206 ■ The Role of Culture 207 ■ Socialization 209 ■ Functional Necessity or Exploitation? 213

## Age and Ageism 214

Biological Effects 215 ■ Psychological Effects 215 ■ Social Definitions 216 ■ Prejudice and Discrimination 217 ■ Elder Abuse 217

## Chapter Review 218

## Key Terms 218

## Suggested Readings 218

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**Chapter 10****The Family 222**

The Family and Society 224

Functions of the Family 224 ■ The Conflict Perspective 226 ■ The American Experience 227

Sex and Abortion 228

Common Sex Myths 229 ■ Changes in Sexual Attitude 229 ■ The Battle over Abortion 231

American Marriages 232

Preparing for Marriage 233 ■ Marriage Choices 234 ■ Marital Happiness 235 ■ Divorce 236

Changes in the American Family 239

Dual-Career Marriages 239 ■ Single-Parent Families 240 ■ Stepfamilies 241 ■ Family Violence 242 ■ Living Together 243 ■ Staying Single 244 ■ Death of the Family? 245

Chapter Review 246

Key Terms 247

Suggested Readings 248

**Chapter 11****Religion 248**

Varieties of Religion 250

Theism 251 ■ Ethicalism 252 ■ Animism 253

Religion and Society 253

Durkheim: Society as God 253 ■ Marx: Religion as People's Opium 254 ■ Weber: The Origin of Capitalism 255 ■ Functions and Dysfunctions 256 ■ Confrontation and Compromise 259

Religion in the United States 262

Religious Affiliation 262 ■ New Age 268 ■ Islam 268 ■ Secularized Religion 269 ■ Religious Television 271 ■ Civil Religion 272

Chapter Review 273

Key Terms 274

Suggested Readings 275

**Chapter 12****Politics and the Economy 276**

Power and the State 278

The Nature of Power 278 ■ Types of Authority 279 ■ The Power to Declare War 280 ■ War and Peace 281

Who Really Governs? 283

The Pluralist View 283 ■ The Elitist View 283 ■ The Marxist View 285

The People's Response 286

Political Participation 287 ■ Political Violence 288

Contemporary Economic Systems 291

The Industrial Revolution 291 ■ Capitalism and Socialism 293 ■ Economies in the Real World 295 ■ The American Economy Today 296

Work in America 298

The Labor Force 298 ■ Job Satisfaction 299 ■ The Changing Workplace 301

Chapter Review 302

Key Terms 303

Suggested Readings 304

**Chapter 13****Education, Science, and Health 306**

Social Aspects of Education 308

Knowledge and Skills 308 ■ Social Mobility 309 ■ National Unity 310 ■ Custodial Care 311 ■ The Conflict Perspective 312 ■ American Problems in Perspective 313

Science and Society 315

The Emergence of Science 315 ■ Scientific Progress 317 ■ Modern Science 318 ■ Scientific Ideals 320 ■ Scientific Realities 321

The Social Realities of Health 322

American Health 322 ■ Social Factors 323 ■ AIDS: An Epidemiological Analysis 325 ■ The Changing Medical Profession 327 ■ The Right to Die 328

Perspectives on Health 329

Functionalism 329 ■ The Conflict Perspective 330 ■ Symbolic Interactionism 331

Chapter Review 332

Key Terms 333

Suggested Readings 334

**Chapter 14****Population, Ecology, and Urbanization 336**

Population 338

The Latest U.S. Census 339 ■ Demographic Processes 340

Combating Population Growth 343

Family Planning 344 ■ Population Control 344 ■ U.S. Population Policy 345

Ecology 348

Elements of Ecology 348 ■ Environmental Pollution 348 ■ Saving the Environment 350

Stages of Urbanization 352

The Preindustrial City 352 ■ The Industrial City 353 ■ Metropolis and Megalopolis 354

The Urban Environment 357

The Nature of City Life 357 ■ The Suburban Experience 360

Chapter Review 361  
Key Terms 362  
Suggested Readings 362

## **Chapter 15**

### **Collective Behavior and Social Change 364**

Collective Behavior 366

Preconditions 366 ■ Panics 368 ■ Crowds  
370 ■ Fashions 372 ■ Rumor 373 ■ Public  
Opinion 374 ■ Social Movements 376

Social Change 378

Evolutionary Theory 378 ■ Cyclical Theory  
379 ■ Equilibrium Theory 381 ■ Conflict  
Theory 382

Modernization 383

What Stimulates Modernization? 383 ■ Toward  
One World Society? 384

Major Changes in Our Future 387

Chapter Review 389

Key Terms 390

Suggested Readings 391

Glossary 393

References 401

Credits 431

Name Index 432

Subject Index 438

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# *Sociology*



# 1

## THE ESSENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

