

Soc100 Study Guide

Sociology is the study of **social behavior**. It is a social science. Just like other scientific disciplines, sociology involves the organized systematic study of phenomena in order to enhance understanding.

Society-

- **people living together** in an ordered **community**
- society affects everything we do whether its in a small way or a large way
- the more options people have the better they feel

Culture-

- the arts and other manifestations of **human intellectual achievement regarded collectively**
- the totality of learned, socially transmitted customs, knowledge, material objects, and behavior.

Ethnocentrism-

- the tendency to assume that **one's own culture** and way of life represent the norm or are **superior to all others**

Subculture-

- **culture within a culture**, people guided by the dominant culture but **keeps their own culture** as well

Dominant Culture-

- established language, religion, values, rituals, and social customs, **norm for the society as a whole**

Culture Shock-

- the feeling of disorientation experienced by someone who is suddenly subjected to an unfamiliar culture

Counter Culture-

- against culture, **not like dominant culture**

Diffusion-

- process by which a **cultural item spreads from group to group**

Material Culture-

- **physical or technological aspects** of our daily lives
- food, houses, raw materials

Nonmaterial Culture-

- **ways of using material objects**
- customs, beliefs, philosophies

C. Wright Mills described thinking as the **sociological imagination**

- An **awareness** of the relationship between an individual and the wider society.

Auguste Comte believed that a theoretical science of society and a systematic investigation of behavior were **needed to improve society**.

Functionalist Perspective

- emphasizes the way in which the parts of a society are structured to maintain its stability.

Conflict Perspective

- assumes social behavior is best understood in terms of tension between groups over power or the allocation of resources

Feminist Perspective

- sees the inequity in gender as central to all behavior and organization

Interactionist Perspective

- generalize everyday forms of social interaction in order to explain society as a whole.

Emile Durkheim - insisted that behavior must be understood within a larger social context, not just in individualistic terms

- religious life - like other forms of group behavior, religion reinforces a group's solidarity
- suicide - when you are connected to something larger than yourself, you are less likely to commit suicide

Max Weber - ideal type - construct or model for evaluating specific cases, useful standard for understanding

- verstehen - understanding/insight

Karl Marx - society was fundamentally divided between two classes that clashed in a pursuit of their own interests

- capitalist society - opportunity to excel

W. E. B. DuBois - believed that granting of full political rights to Blacks was essential to their social and economic progress.

- Helped found the NAACP

Erving Goffman - popularized dramaturgical approach

- People are seen as theatrical performers.
- Compares everyday life to the setting of the theater and the stage

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis -

- The structure of a language determines a native speaker's perception and categorization of experience

Control Group -

- the subject in an experiment not introduced to the independent variable by the researcher

Hypothesis -

- a statement about the relationship between two or more variables

Independent Variable -

- the variable in a causal relationship that causes or influences a change in another variable

Dependent Variable -

- the variable in a causal relationship that is subject to the influence of another variable

Correlation-

- a relationship between two variables in which a change in one coincides with a change in the other

Qualitative Research-

- research that relies on what is seen in field or naturalistic settings more than on statistical data

Quantitative Research-

- Research that collects and reports data primarily in numerical form

Cultural Universal-

- A common practice or belief found in every culture

Latent Function-

- An unconscious or unintended function that may reflect hidden purposes

Manifest Function-

- An open, stated, and conscious function

Microsociology-

- sociological investigation that stresses the study of small groups, often through experimental means