

## Test One Study Guide

### Agency/ Agents:

- Individuals, but can also be groups and organizations.
- Made more of a sum of individual economy, sociology existing outside society due to the type of choices individuals will make.
- Free will and determination: how much we do/choose is pre-shaped by our circumstances
- In sociology we refer to "agency" and "structure"
  - Who are the agents?
  - What makes the "structure" of society

### Agents

- Makes change in society, takes action
- The freedom individuals have to choose and to act.

### Social/ Structure

- Law, economy, social norms
- Consists of a series of predictable relationships composed of various positions people occupy; made up of:
  - Institutions
  - Statuses
  - Social roles
  - Groups,
  - Social networks
  - Virtual worlds

### Global Structure

- Enduring institutions: **economy, education, family, government, and religion**
  - How does social structure change?
  - How about our place in society?
    - We create them, but they don't depend on individuals actions
  - Enduring actions of society that will reoccur.

### Social Inequalities:

- Key issue in society

### **A condition in which members of society have different amounts of wealth, prestige, and power**

- Location in the social structure *determining relative privilege*
- Access to education, social safety net, etc.
  - Who is anyone, has the power to maintain the social structure or existing power?
  - Sociology offers a few different perspectives on the question, each perspective contains many "sub theories"

### Dominant Ideologies:

- Cultural beliefs that legitimate existing power relationships

### Functionalism

- **Idea that society is like organisms**
- Inequality, product of some disorder or have functions (good for a whole)
- **No person, group, or institution maintains social order, order is maintained "naturally" as living organisms**
- Social problems indicate breakdown of social order

## Theorist

1. **Auguste Comte**: Founding theorist, distinguish social statistics, versus social dynamics
  - What maintained in order
  - What creates change?
2. **Emilie Durkheim**: Classical Theorist, founded first undergrad: sociology
  - Division of labor- being something that creates order in society
  - Social solidarity
  - Suicide and **Anomie** -(the loss of direction felt in a society when social control of individual behavior has become ineffective)
- Theory of suicide: People experience disconnectedness or "anomie" in modern societies with an advanced division of labor & fewer shared values
- He believed that when people become disconnected from society the suicide rate would go up
3. **Karl Marx**
  - Founding theorist, ownership class vs. working class
4. **Max Weber**- believed you could divide society with people who had power vs people who didn't

## Conflicts

- "Fault lines" are found within countries & between countries (haves/have nots)
- Society can continue with out social problems being solved (atleast in short term)
  - Consensus is based on misunderstanding: dominant ideologies, justify inequality
  - Social order is fundamentally unequal
    - Based on access to resources
    - Based power on economic system
    - Groups/organizations with power maintain order for their benefit in society

### I. Macro-sociology

- a. Looks at "big time, big space:" broad social processes and outcomes
- b. Functionalist and conflict perspectives on social order are **macro**.

### II. Micro-sociology

- a. Looks at "small time, small space;" everyday social interactions and behaviors
- b. Interactionism
  - i. Erving Goffman
    - Creating meaning together
    - Dramaturgical approach and impression management
  - ii. People behavior is influenced
  - iii. Social structures exist only because we believe they exist
    - Ex.: Authority, norms, disapproval
    - Gender considered a type of performance

### Sociological Imagination:

- a. Relationship between "private troubles"(obstacles that individuals face as individuals) and "public issues" (obstacles that individuals face in similar positions face)
- b. Individuals problems are not from perspective of sociology
- c. Point=empowerment
- d. The sociological imagination involves our recognition of the significance of our social location
  - **Material culture** → refers to the physical or technological aspects of our daily lives: (including food, houses, factories)

**-Nonmaterial Culture** → refers to ways of using material objects and to custom ideas, expressions, beliefs, knowledge, government, and patterns of communication.

Social order: maintained

- French philosopher (Auguste Comte) believed that knowing the “laws of society” would help us to understand 2 key principles:
  - *Social statics* → principles by which societies hold together and order is maintained
  - *Social dynamics* → the factors that bring about change and shape the nature and direction of that change
- Emile Durkheim: emphasized significance of social order
  - He was concerned about what happens when the influence of society declines, resulting in weakened social integration
- What is the role of institutions in society?
  - Mitchell Duneier (sociologist) believed that such approaches to viewing life in the context of social institutions allow us to better understand what it means to live in the world as it is structured today

The Enlightenment:

- Rise of reason & individualism
- Reason: Knowledge based on logic and evidence

Social Contract

- : People give up some of their own rights in exchange for protection & fair rules
- **Theory: set of statements that seek to explain actions, behaviors or problems**

Sociology as a Science:

- a. Understanding different types of society:
- b. Analyzing sources of order & stability
- c. Making distinction between facts and values
- I. Social science: study of social features of humans and in ways in which they interact and change

Latent functions

- Often hidden functions
- Unacknowledged
- Unexpected

Manifest Functions

- Accepted functions
- Acknowledged
- Expected

Gans' theory of “The use of Poverty”:

- i. Suggest that the latent function of poverty is to benefit more powerful groups in society

Negative Freedom

“Freedom from”

- Government interventions
- Obstacles to free markets

Positive Freedom

“Freedom to”

- Access opportunities
- Reach one's potential

Ideologies

1. Offer simplified image of society
2. Often described the relationship between the government and society