

Sociology- the systematic study of social interaction at a variety of levels

Social Interaction- the process of acting toward and reacting to the surroundings

Microsociology- focuses on small-scale patterns of individual's social interaction in specific settings (such as: interacting with each other as friends)

Macrosociology- focuses on large-scale patterns and processes that characterize society as a whole (such as: a comparison of divorce rates)

- Sociology is more than just common sense

Why is sociology important?

- Making informational decisions
- Understanding the true meaning of diversity
- Thinking critically
- Shaping social and public policies
- Expanding your career opportunities

- Sociology is based on theory and empirical information

Theory- a set of statements that explains why a phenomenon occurs

Empirical- information based on observations, experiments, or other data collection rather than on ideology, religion, intuition, or conventional change

Auguste Comte

- "Father of sociology"

Harriet Martineau

- Translated Comte's work
- She compacted information and sets of data down to the simplest forms

Emile Durkheim

- Analyzed social facts
- Conducted suicide data and social integrity

Karl Marx

- Analyzed the Industrial Revolution

Alienation- the feeling of separation from one's group of society

Class Conflict (Conflict Theory)- an approach that examines how and why groups disagree, struggle over power, and compete for scarce resources (such as property, and wealth)

Jane Adams

- Cofounded the Hull House
- Studied social disorganization and immigration
- Developed programs for immigrants

W.E.B DuBois

- Cofounded NAACP
- Examined race and class

Functionalism- an approach that maintains that society is a complex system of interdependent parts that work together to ensure a society's survival

Functions- purposes and activities to meet different needs

Manifest functions- intended and organized

Latent functions- unintended and unrecognized

Dysfunction- social patterns that have a negative impact on a group or society

Feminist theories- approaches that examine and seek to explain the social, economic, and political inequality of women in society