

**Gentle Reminders:** (1) Exam will focus on “owning” the concepts: state them precisely, know their accurate meaning, can give examples to illustrate them, and compare and contrast them. (2) About 60% of the midterm will be based on this review. (3) Videos will not be in the test.

Weeks 1&2 offer general introduction

- Industrial revolution as the historical background for the emergence of sociology as a discipline
- Society: our working definition
  1. A group of people (2 or more persons), with enduring relationships (structured by institutions, shared customs, and common symbols)
- 2-way relationship as specified in the sociological imagination
  - 1.
- 3 sociological perspectives (Main differences from each other and key concepts of each perspective)
  1. Conflict theory- starting point is society, society is characterized by conflict between different groups over scarce and valued resources (factory owners and workers), social arrangement benefits one group at the expense of another, and thus perpetuates conflicts and change
    - Class conflict- society has two groups/classes: haves (minority) and have-nots (majority)
  2. Structural-Functionalism- starting point is society; society has an internal structure, comparable to a machine, each constituent part of the structure fulfills a function; individuals fit in as cogs of the machine, they do things and play roles by society; a part of society will cease to exist if it no longer contributes to social solidarity and order
  3. Symbolic interactionism- starting point is the individual; social order is negotiated through individual interactions, not determined by society the machine
    - Symbols- meaningful signifier such as language, cultural objects, etc.; the meaning is derived from the social interaction that one has with one's fellows
- 4 Founders of sociology: key legacy of each
  1. August Comte (1798-1857)- sociology
  2. Emile Durkheim (1858-1918)- social facts
  3. Karl Marx (1818-1883)- critique of capitalism
  4. Max Weber (1864-1920)- interpretive sociology
- 5 methods: strengths & weaknesses of each method
  1. Survey- using a questionnaire to solicit responses from individuals in a population or a sample of the population;
    - Strengths- allows everyone in the population to have an equal chance of being chosen, responses can be more easily quantified and analyzed, large numbers of people can be studied, researchers can employ a specialized agency to collect the responses
    - Weaknesses- can be restrictive and misleading, many people view them as time-consuming and intrusive

2. Personal interviews- face-to-face solicitation of responses, often more detailed, from a limited number of individuals
3. Experiment- using an artificial setting to allow the researcher to manipulate the relationship between different factors of interest
  - Strengths- permit control of experimental conditions, enabling the researcher to isolate specific causes
  - Weakness- difficult to generalize the results of laboratory experiments to the larger society; results may be artificial
4. Observation- watching, listening to, and recording behaviors and conversations as they happen
5. Archival research- looking into existing collections of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people

### WK3 Culture

- **Culture:** The way of life of a people, including the human-created strategies for adjusting/adapting to the environment & to those creatures (including humans) that are part of that environment.
- **Material culture:**
  - All the natural and human-created objects to which people have attached meaning.
- **Non-material culture:**
  - Intangible human creations, which we cannot identify directly through the senses.
  - Know the definition and differences between **values, beliefs, and norms**
    - **Values-** general, shared conceptions of what is good, right, appropriate, worthwhile, and important with regard to conduct, appearance, and states of being
    - **Beliefs-** conceptions that people accept as true, concerning how the world operates and where the individual fits in relationship to others
    - **Norms-** written and unwritten rules that specify behaviors appropriate and inappropriate to a particular social situation
- **Subculture:** Segment of society that shares distinctive pattern of mores, folkways, and values that differs from larger society
- **Ethnocentrism:** Tendency to assume that one's own culture and way of life represents the norm or is superior to others
- **Cultural relativism:** People's behaviors from the perspective of their own cult; understanding and judging people's behaviors from the perspective of their own culture
- **Culture shock:** Feeling disoriented, uncertain, out of place, or fearful when immersed in an unfamiliar culture
- **Culture war:** Polarization of society over controversial cultural elements

- **Dominant ideology:** Set of cultural beliefs and practices that help maintain powerful interests, including: social interests, economic interests, political interests
- **Diffusion:** Process by which cultural item spreads from group to group

#### WK4 Socialization and Social Interaction

- **Socialization:** The process by which people
  - develop a sense of self &
  - learn the ways of the society in which they live.
  - Socialization is a life-long process, but the most lasting socialization occurs in one's childhood

**Social interaction:** the ways in which people respond to one another

- “the ways” is often scripted, that is, following scripts society provides us with
- Some scripts are hidden, others are explicit

**Social role:** Set of expectations for people who occupy a given status

**Role conflict:** When incompatible expectations arise from two or more social positions held by same person

- 1 person
- 2 or more roles

**Role strain:** Difficulties that arise when same social position imposes conflicting demands and expectations

- 1 person
- 1 role

- **Dramaturgy:** The basic premise: interpersonal interaction is similar to a theatrical performance in the sense that **the individual seeks to impress others with an acceptable image of his/her self**
- **Front:**
  - Two Components
    - **The setting:** the scenic parts ...
    - **The “personal front:”** appearance and manner, e.g., looks, posture, clothing, ...
  - **Function of the front:** Defining the situation for the audience

#### Week 5 Deviance

**Deviance:** any behavior or physical appearance that is **socially** challenged and or condemned because it departs from the norms and expectations of a group.