

Class Notes

8/22/12

Sociology: "the study of society", "study of" and the Latin socius "being with others"

8/27/12

- Perspective:
 1. Every human and every human creation has perspective/some level of subjectivity
 2. We have to work to see our own perspective
 3. Without conscious attention to our perspective, it looks like "COMMON SENSE" or "just the way things are"
 4. Ideas that stand part from our own perspective, or from the mainstream perspective seem BIASED
- Allan Johnson:
 - o Born 1946
 - o Grew up around civil rights, women's rights and Vietnam war
 - o Worked as sociology professor for 30 years
 - o Speaks about social inequality, men's violence against women
 - o KEY CONCEPTS TO READING:
 - "The Forest, The Trees and The One Thing"
 - individualism, inequality, racism, sexism, privilege, relationship to individual society, social system, social positions, paths of resistance.
 - Americans society's dominant lens is individualistic
 - Individualist perspective separates us from each other and decreases our sense of community responsibilities.
 - Individualism conceals the influence of larger social forces – creates "BLIND SPOT"

- Sociologists focus is on the INDIVIDUAL in society – shows us the “bigger picture”
- PRIVILEGE and OPPRESSION:
 1. Privilege is invisible to those who do not have it
 2. Privilege and oppression are directly related
 3. Privilege and oppression are NOT opposites, a person can be both privilege and oppressed
 - i. Example: Oprah
 4. Content with the status quo is a privilege in itself
 5. Apathy is a privilege of a privilege

9/5/12

- Barbara Ehrenreich
 - Labor is underpaid
 - Work is gendered and raced

DEFINING ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

- Capitalism:
 - Private ownership
 - Personal profits
 - No government intervention
- Socialism:
 - Public ownership

- Collective goals
- Centralized decision-making

MOST NATION ARE MIXED ECONOMIES

Democratic socialism: a type of mixed economy

- Some private ownership
- Government distribution of some essential goods and services
- Free elections
 - Primary Ex's: Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Gr. Britain, France

A Brief History of the Industrial Revolution:

- Capitalism, Sociology and Technology
 - *Technology* changed the home, the work place, family, etc.
 - People left farms, machines can do labor, go to CITY
 - Capitalism and technology develop "hand in hand"
 - Workers suffered, child labor
- Marx, Weber, Durkheim: wrote about the effects of the Industrial Revolution
 - WEBER: How did Capitalism Develop?
 - Pre Cap: "I work to eat"
 - STAGE 1: Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation
 - My work is a vocation/calling