CHAPTER 1
THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

CHAPTER SUMMARY

- Sociology offers a perspective — a view of the world — that stresses that people's social experiences underlie their behavior. For C. Wright Mills, this is the interaction of biography and history.

- Sociology is the scientific study of society and human behavior, and, as such, is one of the social sciences, which study human behavior, in contrast to the natural sciences, which focus on explaining events in our natural environment.

- Sociology emerged during the upheavals of the Industrial Revolution. Early sociologists such as Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Harriet Martineau focused on how the sweeping social changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution affected human behavior.

- Sociologists agree that sociological research should be value free but disagree concerning the proper purposes and uses of social research. Some believe its purpose should be only to advance understanding of human behavior; others feel that its goal should be to investigate harmful social arrangements and reform society.

- Weber believed that sociologists must try to see the world from another's perspective in order to understand their behavior (*Verstehen*); Durkheim stressed the importance of uncovering the objective social conditions that influence behavior (social facts).

- In the early years of sociology, only a few wealthy women received an advanced education. Harriet Martineau was an Englishwoman who wrote about social life in Great Britain and the United States and published a book entitled *Society in America*.

- In North America, departments of sociology began to be established at the end of the nineteenth century. In the early years, the contributions of women and minorities were largely ignored.

- Pure sociology is research whose only purpose is to make discoveries, while applied sociology is the use of sociology to solve social problems in settings ranging from the work place to the family.

- A theory is a general statement about how sets of facts are related to one another. Because no one theory encompasses all of reality, sociologists use three primary theoretical frameworks: (1) symbolic interactionism, concentrating on how people use symbols to develop and share their views of the world, usually focuses on the micro level; (2) functional analysis, stressing that society is made up of various interrelated parts which, when working properly, contribute to the stability of society, focuses on the macro level; and (3) conflict theory, emphasizing that social life is based on a competitive struggle to gain control over scarce resources, also focuses on the macro level.

- Sociology today is coming closer to its roots of applying sociological knowledge to social change. Two major trends are applied sociology and globalization. This latter trend is
likely to broaden the scope of sociological inquiry beyond its traditional concentration on U.S. society.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
After reading Chapter 1, you should be able to:

1. Explain the sociological perspective: what it is, what it offers, and why C. Wright Mills referred to it as “the intersection of biography (the individual) and history (the social factors that influence the individual).” (2)
2. Know what is meant by social location and how it helps people define themselves and others define them. (2)
3. Understand how sociology is applicable to the growing global world. (3)
4. Identify, understand, and make distinctions between the natural sciences and the social sciences. (5-6)
5. Identify and explain the goals of science. (5)
6. Understand how sociology views and studies human behavior and how its particular areas of focus are similar to — and different from — each of the other social sciences. (4-5)
7. Discuss the social changes — and the changing social conditions — which fostered the development of sociology as a distinct academic discipline in the middle of the nineteenth century. (6-7)
8. Identify and critique the sociological contributions of the following mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth century European sociologists: Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Harriet Martineau. (7-15)
9. Understand how and why levels of social integration may affect rates of suicide and how Emile Durkheim’s nineteenth century study of suicide helped demonstrate how social forces affect people’s behaviors. (9-10)
10. Explain the role of values in social research as prescribed by Max Weber, and the ensuing controversies over whether sociological research can be and/or should be value free.(10-12)
11. Distinguish between “Verstehen,” as envisioned by Max Weber, and “social facts,” as defined by Emile Durkheim; and explain how, despite their differences, both can be used together in social research. (12-14)
12. Discuss why there were so few women sociologists in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, and how the contributions of women sociologists during this time period were received and evaluated by their male counterparts. (14-15)
13. Trace the history of sociology in North America from the late 1800s to the present time, identifying the specific sociological contributions of the following American sociologists: Jane Addams, W.E.B. Du Bois, Talcott Parsons, and C. Wright Mills. (17-22)
14. Understand the historical tensions and ongoing debates in North American sociology between social reform and social analysis, and how the sociological contributions of Jane Addams, W.E.B. Du Bois, Talcott Parsons, and C. Wright Mills fit into the tensions and debates. (16-20)
15. Discuss the current state of American sociology as it relates to the debate between social reform and social analysis and what role applied sociology plays in this debate. (19-20)
16. Explain what applied sociologist is, the careers that applied sociologists may have, and how some applications of sociology such as capturing Saddam Hussein or the study of job discrimination are examples of applied sociology. (20-21, 30)
17. Define what is meant by theory and explain why it is an important part of sociology. (21)
18. Identify the three major theoretical perspectives in sociology — symbolic interactionism, functional analysis, and conflict theory — and describe the particular level of analysis, characteristics, viewpoints, and concerns that are associated within each of these. (21-29)
19. Apply each of the three sociological perspectives to a contemporary issue such as the increasing rates of divorce in America. (22-24)
20. Understand the changing directions in sociology. (28-29)
21. Explain why the American Sociological Association is promoting public sociology. (30)
22. Describe the current trends that are shaping the future of sociology in the United States, and how globalization, in particular, may expand American sociology’s horizons in the twenty-first century. (30-31)

CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. The Sociological Perspective
   A. This perspective is important because it provides a different way of looking at familiar worlds. It allows us to gain a new vision of social life.
   B. This perspective stresses the broader social context of behavior by looking at individuals' social location — employment, income, education, gender, age, and race — and by considering external influences — people's experiences — which are internalized and become part of a person's thinking and motivations. We are able to see the links between what people do and the social settings that shape their behavior.
   C. This perspective enables us to analyze and understand both the forces that contribute to the emergence and growth of the global village and our unique experiences in our own smaller corners of this village.

II. Sociology and the Other Sciences
   A. Science is the systematic methods used to obtain knowledge and the knowledge obtained by those methods. It can be divided into the natural sciences and the social sciences. Sociology is defined as "the scientific study of society and human behavior."
   B. The natural sciences attempt to comprehend, explain, and predict events in our natural environment.
   C. Social sciences attempt to objectively study the social world. Like the natural sciences, the social sciences are divided into specialized fields based on their subject matter.
      1. Political science focuses on politics or government.
      2. Economics analyzes the production, distribution, and allocation of the material goods and services of a society.
      3. Anthropology is the sister discipline of sociology that attempts to understand culture (a people's total way of life) by focusing primarily on tribal people. This is giving way though to study of groups in industrialized settings.
      4. Psychology concentrates on processes that occur within the individual.
      5. Sociology is similar to the other social sciences in some ways, but it is distinct because it looks at all social institutions, focuses on industrialized societies, and looks at external factors which influence people.
   D. All sciences have certain goals.
      1. The first goal is to explain why something happens.
      2. The second goal is to make generalizations by looking for patterns, recurring characteristics, or events.
      3. The third goal is to predict what will happen in the future, given current knowledge.
   E. To achieve these goals, scientists must move beyond common sense and rely on conclusions based on systematic study.
III. The Origins of Sociology

A. Sociology developed in the middle of the nineteenth century when European social observers began to use scientific methods to test their ideas. The following four factors led to its development:

1. The social upheaval in Europe as a result of the Industrial Revolution, which led to changes in the way people lived their lives;
2. The political revolutions in America and France, which encouraged people to rethink their ideas about social life;
3. The development of imperialism — as the Europeans conquered other nations, they came in contact with different cultures and began to ask why cultures varied;
4. The success of the natural sciences, which created a desire to apply scientific methods in order to find answers for the questions being raised about the social world.

B. Auguste Comte coined the term "sociology" and suggested the use of positivism — applying the scientific approach to the social world — but he did not utilize this approach himself. Comte believed that this new science should not only discover sociological principles, but should then apply those principles to social reform.

C. Herbert Spencer viewed societies as evolutionary, coined the term "the survival of the fittest," and became known for social Darwinism. Spencer was convinced that no one should intervene in the evolution of society and that attempts at social reform were wrong.

D. Karl Marx, whose ideas about social classes and class struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat was the foundation of the conflict perspective, believed that class conflict was the key to human history. Marx believed that the conflict and struggle would end only with a revolution by the working class. Emile Durkheim played an important role in the development of sociology.

1. One of his primary goals was to get sociology recognized as a separate academic discipline.
2. He was interested in understanding the social factors that influence individual behavior; he studied suicide rates among different groups and concluded that social integration — the degree to which people are tied to their social group — was a key social factor in suicide.
3. Durkheim's third concern was that social research be practical; sociologists should not only diagnose the causes of social problems but should also develop solutions for them.

E. Max Weber was one of the most influential of all sociologists, raising issues that remain controversial even today. Disagreeing with Karl Marx, Weber defined religion as a central force in social change (i.e., Protestantism encourages greater economic development and was the central factor in the rise of capitalism in some countries).

1. The Protestant belief system encouraged its members to embrace change.
2. Protestants sought “signs” that they were in God’s will; financial success became a major sign. The more money they made, the more secure they were about their religious standing.
3. Weber called this behavior the Protestant ethic; he called their readiness to invest capital in order to make more money the spirit of capitalism.

IV. Values in Sociological Research

A. Weber advocated that sociological research should be value free (personal values or biases should not influence social research) and objective (totally neutral).

1. Sociologists agree that objectivity is a proper goal, but acknowledge that no one can escape values entirely.
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2. Replication is when a study is repeated to see if the same results are found. It is one means to avoid the distortions that values can cause.

B. Although sociologists may agree that research should be objective, the proper purposes and uses of sociology are argued among sociologists, with some taking the position that the proper role of sociology is to advance understanding of social life, while others believe that it is the responsibility of sociologists to explore harmful social arrangements of society.

C. On the one side are those who say that understanding social behavior is sociology’s proper goal and that the knowledge gained through research belongs to the scientific community and can be used by anyone for any purpose. On the other side are those who say the goal of sociological research should be to investigate harmful social conditions and that sociologists should lead the way in reforming society.

V. Verstehen and Social Facts

A. Weber argued that sociologists should use Verstehen ("to grasp by insight") in order to see beyond the social facts to the subjective meanings that people attach to their own behavior.

B. Durkheim believed that social facts, patterns of behavior that characterize a social group, reflect underlying conditions of society and should be used to interpret other social facts.

C. Social facts and Verstehen fit together because they reinforce each other; sociologists use Verstehen in order to interpret social facts.

VI. Sexism in Early Sociology

A. In the early years of sociology, the field was dominated by men because rigidly defined social roles prevented most women from pursuing an education.
   1. Women were supposed to devote themselves to the four K's: Kirche, Küchen, Kinder, und Kleider (church, cooking, children, and clothes).
   2. At the same time, a few women from wealthy families managed to get an education; a few even studied sociology, although the sexism in the universities stopped them from earning advanced degrees, becoming professors, or having their research recognized.

B. Harriet Martineau studied social life in both Great Britain and the United States, publishing Society in America decades before Durkheim and Weber were even born. While her original research has been largely ignored by the discipline, she is known for her translations of Comte's ideas into English.

VII. Sociology in North America

A. The first departments of sociology in the United States were at the University of Kansas (1892), Atlanta University (1897), and the University of Chicago (1899); the first in Canada was at McGill University (1922).
   1. Albion Small, founder of the department of sociology at the University of Chicago, also established the American Journal of Sociology.
   2. The department of sociology at the University of Chicago dominated North American sociology; other early sociologists from the University of Chicago were Robert E. Park, Ernest Burgess, and George Herbert Mead.

B. The situation of women in North America was similar to that of European women, and their contributions to sociology met a similar fate. Denied a role in the universities, many turned to social activism, working with the poor and regarded as social workers.

C. Jane Addams is an example of a sociologist who was able to combine the role of sociologist with that of social reformer.
1. In 1889, she founded Hull House, a settlement house for the poor, and worked to bridge the gap between the powerful and powerless.
2. Sociologists from nearby University of Chicago visited Hull House frequently.
3. She is the only sociologist to have won the Nobel Peace Prize; she was awarded this in 1931.

D. African American professionals also faced problems.
1. W. E. B. Du Bois was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He conducted extensive research on race relations in the United States, publishing one book a year on this subject between 1896 and 1914.
2. Despite his accomplishments, he encountered prejudice and discrimination in his professional and personal life. When he attended professional sociologists’ meetings, he was not permitted to eat or stay in the same hotels as the white sociologists.
3. Frustrated at the lack of improvements in race relations, he turned to social action, helping to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) along with Jane Addams, Florence Kelley, and others from Hull House.
4. Until recently, his contributions to sociology were overlooked.

E. Many early North American sociologists combined the role of sociologist with that of social reformer. For example, University of Chicago sociologists Park and Burgess, studied many urban problems and offered suggestions on how to alleviate them. By the 1940s, as sociologists became more concerned with establishing sociology as an academic discipline, the emphasis shifted from social reform to social theory.
1. Talcott Parsons developed abstract models of society to show how the parts of society harmoniously work together.
2. Countering this development was C. Wright Mills, who urged sociologists to get back to social reform. He saw the emergency of the power elite as an imminent threat to freedom.

F. The debate over what should be the proper goals of sociological analysis — analyzing society vs. reforming society — continues today.
1. Applied sociology exists between these two extremes. One of the first attempts at applied sociology was the founding of the NAACP.
2. Today, applied sociologists work in a variety of settings, from business and hi-tech organizations to government and not-for-profit agencies.
3. Applied sociology is the application of sociological knowledge in some specific setting, rather than an attempt to rebuild society. Both sociologists who focus on social reform and those who emphasize basic sociology reject applied sociology.

VIII. Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology
A. Theory is a general statement about how some parts of the world fit together and how they work; it is an explanation of how two or more facts are related to one another. Sociologists use three different theoretical perspectives to understand social behavior.

B. Symbolic interactionism views symbols, things to which we attach meaning, as the basis of social life.
1. Through the use of symbols, people are able to define relationships to others; to coordinate actions with others, thereby making social life possible; and to develop a sense of themselves.
2. A symbolic interactionist studying divorce would focus on how the changing meanings of marriage, family, and divorce have all contributed to the increase in the rate of divorce in U.S. society.
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C. The central idea of functional analysis is that society is a whole unit, made up of interrelated parts that work together.
   1. To understand society, we must look at both structure (how the parts of society fit together to make up the whole) and function (how each part contributes to society).
   2. Robert Merton used the term function to refer to the beneficial consequences of people's actions to keep society stable and dysfunction to refer to consequences that undermine stability. Functions can be either manifest (actions that are intended) or latent (unintended consequences).
   3. In trying to explain divorce, a functionalist would look at how industrialization and urbanization both contributed to the changing function of marriage and the family.

D. According to conflict theory, society is viewed as composed of groups competing for scarce resources.

E. Karl Marx focused on struggles between the bourgeoisie, the small group of capitalists who own the means of production, and the proletariat, the masses of workers exploited by the capitalists.
   1. Contemporary conflict theorists have expanded this perspective to include conflict in all relations of power and authority.
   2. Just as Marx stressed conflict between capitalists and workers, many feminists stress a similar conflict between men and women.
   3. Divorce is seen as the outcome of the shifting balance of power within a family; as women have gained power and try to address inequalities in their relationships, men resist.
   4. The perspectives differ in their level of analysis. Functionalists and conflict theorists provide macro-level analysis because they examine the large-scale patterns of society. Symbolic interactionists carry out micro-level analysis because they focus on the small-scale patterns of social life.

F. Each perspective provides a different and often sharply contrasting picture of the world. However, sociologists often use all three perspectives because no one theory or level of analysis encompasses all of reality.

IX. Trends Shaping the Future of Sociology

A. To understand the tension between social reform and social analysis, sociologists have found it useful to divide sociology into three phases.
   1. In the first phase the primary concern of sociologists was making the world a better place.
   2. During the second phase, from the 1920s until World War II, sociologists sought to establish sociology as a respected field of knowledge, emphasizing basic, or pure, sociology.
   3. In the third (current) phase, there has been an attempt to merge sociological knowledge and practical work with the development of applied sociology. This trend has gained momentum in recent years.
   4. The American Sociological Association (ASA) is promoting public sociology. The ASA wants the public, especially politicians and policy makers, to make use of sociological data in order to better understand how society works.
   5. Despite being able to identify three phases, each of which has been characterized by a different position on reform vs. analysis, there has never been complete consensus on which approach is better.

B. Globalization is a second major trend destined to leave its mark on sociology.
1. Globalization is the breaking down of national boundaries because of advances in communications, trade, and travel.

2. Globalization is likely to broaden the scope of sociological analysis as sociologists look beyond the boundaries of the United States in considering global issues.

C. Globalization is one of the most significant events in world history. This book stresses the impact of globalization on our lives today.

**KEY TERMS**

*After studying the chapter, review the definition for each of the following terms.*

**applied sociology:** the use of sociology to solve problems — from the micro level of family relationships to the macro level of crime and pollution (19)

**bourgeoisie:** Karl Marx’s term for capitalists, those who own the means to produce wealth (8)

**class conflict:** Marx’s term for the struggle between the proletariat (workers) and the bourgeoisie (capitalist) (8)

**common sense:** those things that “everyone knows” are true (5)

**conflict theory:** a theoretical framework in which society is viewed as composed of groups competing for scarce resources (27)

**functional analysis:** a theoretical framework in which society is viewed as composed of various parts, each with a function that, when fulfilled, contributes to society's equilibrium; also known as functionalism and structural functionalism (24)

**generalization:** a statement that goes beyond the individual case and is applied to a broader group or situation (5)

**globalization:** the extensive interconnections among nations due to the expansion of capitalism (31)

**globalization of capitalism:** capitalism (investing to make profits within a rational system) becoming the globe’s dominant economic system (31)

**macro-level analysis:** an examination of large-scale patterns of society (28)

**micro-level analysis:** an examination of small-scale patterns of society (28)

**natural sciences:** the intellectual and academic disciplines designed to comprehend, explain, and predict events in our natural environment (3)

**nonverbal interaction:** communication without words through gestures, space, silence, and so on (28)

**objectivity:** total neutrality (11)

**patterns:** recurring characteristics or events (5)

**positivism:** the application of the scientific approach to the social world (7)

**proletariat:** Marx’s term for the exploited class, the mass of workers who do not own the means of production (9)

**pure or basic sociology:** sociological research whose only purpose is to make discoveries about life in human groups, not to make changes in those groups (19)

**replication:** repeating a study in order to check its findings (12)

**science:** the application of systematic methods to obtain knowledge and the knowledge obtained by those methods (3)

**scientific method:** the use of objective, systematic observations to test theories (6)

**social facts:** Durkheim’s term for a group’s patterns of behavior (13)

**social integration:** the degree to which people feel a part of social groups (10)

**social interaction:** what people do when they are in one another's presence (28)

**social location:** the group memberships that people have because of their location in history and society (2)
social sciences: the intellectual and academic disciplines designed to understand the social world objectively by means of controlled and repeated observations (4)
society: a term used by sociologists to refer to a group of people who share a culture and a territory (2)
sociological perspective: understanding human behavior by placing it within its broader social context (2)
sociology: the scientific study of society and human behavior (7)
subjective meanings: the meanings that people give to their own behavior (12)
symbolic interactionism: a theoretical perspective in which society is viewed as composed of symbols that people use to establish meaning, develop their views of the world, and communicate with one another (21)
theory: a general statement about how some parts of the world fit together and how they work; an explanation of how two or more facts are related to one another (21)
value free: the view that a sociologist's personal values should not influence social research (11)
values: ideas about what is good or worthwhile in life; attitudes about the way the world ought to be (11)
Verstehen: a German word used by Weber that is perhaps best understood as "to have insight into someone's situation" (12)

KEY PEOPLE
Review the major theoretical contributions or findings of these people.

Jane Addams: Addams was the founder of Hull House — a settlement house in the immigrant community of Chicago. She invited sociologists from the nearby University of Chicago to visit. In 1931 she was a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. (16-17)

Ernest Burgess and Harvey Locke: Research by these early sociologists documented a fundamental shift that was occurring in the symbolic meaning of U.S. marriages. They found that marriage was increasingly dependent on mutual affection, understanding, and compatibility. (22-23)

Auguste Comte: Comte is often credited with being the founder of sociology, because he was the first to suggest that the scientific method be applied to the study of the social world. (7)

Charles Horton Cooley: One of the founders of symbolic interactionism, a major theoretical perspective in sociology. (22)

Lewis Coser: Coser pointed out that conflict is likely to develop among people in close relationships because they are connected by a network of responsibilities, power and rewards. (27)

W. E. B. Du Bois: Du Bois was the first African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard University. For most of his career, he taught sociology at Atlanta University. He was concerned about social injustice, wrote about race relations, and was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). (16-19)

Emile Durkheim: Durkheim was responsible for getting sociology recognized as a separate discipline. He was interested in studying how individual behavior is shaped by social forces and in finding remedies for social ills. He stressed that sociologists should use social facts — patterns of behavior that reflect some underlying condition of society. (9-10, 13)

Harriet Martineau: An Englishwoman who studied British and U.S. social life, Martineau published Society in America decades before either Durkheim or Weber were born. She is known primarily for translating Auguste Comte’s ideas into English. (14-15)

Karl Marx: Marx believed that social development grew out of conflict between social classes; under capitalism, this conflict was between the bourgeoisie — those who own the means to
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produce wealth — and the proletariat — the mass of workers. His work is associated with
the conflict perspective. (8-9, 27-28)

George Herbert Mead: Mead was one of the founders of symbolic interactionism, a major
theoretical perspective in sociology. (16, 22)

Robert Merton: Merton contributed the terms manifest and latent functions and dysfunctions
to the functionalist perspective. (24-25)

C. Wright Mills: Mills suggested that external influences (a person's experiences) become part of
his or her thinking and motivations and explain social behavior. As the emphasis in
sociology shifted from social reform to social theory, Mills urged sociologists to get back to
their roots. He saw the emergence of the power elite composed of top leaders of business,
politics and the military as an imminent threat to freedom. (2, 19)

William Ogburn: As early as 1933, Ogburn noted that personality was becoming more important
in mate selection; this supported the symbolic interactionists’ argument that there was a
fundamental shift in the symbolic meaning of U.S. marriages. (22-23)

Talcott Parsons: Parsons’ work dominated sociology in the 1940s and 1950s. He developed
abstract models of how the parts of society harmoniously work together. (19)

Albion Small: Small was the founder of the sociology department at the University of Chicago
and the American Journal of Sociology. (16)

Herbert Spencer: Another early sociologist, Spencer believed that societies evolve from
barbarian to civilized forms. He was the first to use the expression "the survival of the
fittest" to reflect his belief that social evolution depended on the survival of the most
capable and intelligent and the extinction of the less capable. His views became known as
social Darwinism. (7-8, 24)

William I. Thomas: Along with Mead and Cooley, Thomas was important in establishing
symbolic interactionism as a major theoretical perspective in sociology. (22)

Max Weber: Weber's most important contribution to sociology was his study of the relationship
between the emergence of Protestant belief system and the rise of capitalism. He believed
that sociologists should not allow their personal values to affect their social research;
objectivity should become the hallmark of sociology. He argued that sociologists should
use Verstehen — those subjective meanings that people give to their behavior. (11-13)

STUDENT APPLICATION PROJECTS

This is your opportunity to apply the sociological perspective to the world around you. The
projects in this section refer to material introduced in this chapter of your text. These projects
help you apply the sociological perspective “down to your earth...down to your daily life.”

1. Using symbolic interactionism, functional analysis, and conflict theory apply those to
explain why the United States may have such a high teen pregnancy rate as compared
to other industrialized countries.

2. Your text covers the topic of society and social location. List all the ways that your
society and your social location explain why you do what you do.

3. As noted in your text, with each passing year, the world becomes smaller as we
become increasing globalized. How is globalization impacting your daily life? List
five ways that your life has changed due to increased globalization.
SELF-TEST
MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. An approach to understanding human behavior by placing it within its broader social context is known as: (2)
   a. social location.
   b. the sociological perspective.
   c. common sense.
   d. generalization.

2. Sociologists consider occupation, income, education, gender, age, and race as: (2)
   a. insignificant aspects of social life.
   b. constant features of individual well-being.
   c. influential in shaping society.
   d. dimensions of social location.

3. In what way(s) are the social sciences like the natural sciences? (4-5)
   a. Both attempt to study and understand their subjects objectively.
   b. The relationships that create order in their respective worlds are not immediately obvious but must be discovered through controlled observation.
   c. Both are divided into many specialized fields.
   d. All of the above are ways in which the social sciences are like the natural sciences.

4. Going beyond individual cases and making statements that apply to broader groups or situations is called: (5)
   a. objectivity.
   b. Verstehen.
   c. generalization.
   d. social facts.

5. Which of the following was not important to the development of sociology? (6)
   a. the Industrial Revolution
   b. the British revolution
   c. imperialism
   d. the development of the scientific method

6. The application of the scientific approach to the social world is known as: (6)
   a. ethnomethodology.
   b. sociobiology.
   c. natural science.
   d. positivism.

7. Which of the following statements best reflects Herbert Spencer’s views on charity? (7-8)
   a. The poor are the unfortunate victims of capitalism and should be helped by the government.
   b. The poor will eventually unite in revolution and throw off their chains of bondage.
c. Sociologists should study the poor so that they can learn the best strategies to help
them.
d. The poor are the weakest members of society and if society intervenes to help them, it
is interrupting the natural process of social evolution.

8. According to Karl Marx, capitalists, who own the means of production, exploit the: (8-9)
a. bourgeoisie.
b. proletariat.
c. masses.
d. peasants.

9. According to Emile Durkheim, suicide rates can be explained by: (9-10)
a. social factors.
b. common sense.
c. the oppression of the proletariat by the bourgeoisie.
d. the survival of the fittest.

10. What did Durkheim identify as the key to explaining patterns of suicide? (10)
a. the individual mental state of the person committing suicide
b. the degree to which individuals are integrated into their social groups and feel a sense
   of attachment
c. the strength of religious beliefs regarding the importance of life
d. the influence of seasonal factors like the amount of sunlight or the temperature

11. According to Durkheim’s research on suicide, which group is most likely to commit
    suicide? (9)
a. females
b. married people
c. Protestants
d. Catholics

12. Max Weber's research on the rise of capitalism identified __________ as the key. (10)
a. ownership of property
b. political reforms
c. religious beliefs
d. class conflict

13. Replication: (12)
a. helps researchers overcome distortions that values can cause.
b. makes it possible to see how results compare when a study is repeated.
c. involves the repetition of a study by other researchers.
d. includes all of the above.

14. Social facts and Verstehen: (12)
a. have no relationship to each other.
b. have been disproved.
c. go hand-in-hand.
d. were both concepts developed by Durkheim.
15. In the nineteenth century, it was unlikely women would study sociology because: (14-15)
   a. they were more interested in fields of study like English and foreign languages.
   b. sex roles were rigidly defined and it was not considered appropriate or necessary for
      women to get an education.
   c. they were incapable of being trained in scientific methods.
   d. they were not interested in social inquiry or social reform.

16. Which of the following statements about the experiences of North American women in
    sociology is incorrect? (14-15)
   a. in the early years of sociology, the situation of women in North America was similar
      to that of European women — they were largely excluded and their work ignored.
   b. unlike the situation in Europe, many North American women found that there were
      few barriers and they were able to train in sociology and receive faculty appointments.
   c. many early women sociologists in North America turned to social activism.
   d. many male sociologists who worked as professors denied female sociologists the title
      of sociologist, preferring to call them social workers.

17. Which of the following North American sociologists wrote extensively on race relations,
    experienced prejudice and discrimination personally and professionally, and helped found
    the NAACP? (16-17)
   a. Wright Mills
   b. Talcott Parsons
   c. W. E. B. Du Bois
   d. Jane Addams

18. Sociologists who research social problems for government commissions or agencies are:
    (20)
   a. politically correct.
   b. basic sociologists.
   c. applied sociologists.
   d. pure sociologists.

19. The theoretical perspective that views society as composed of symbols that we use to
    establish meaning, develop our views of the world, and communicate with one another is:
    (21)
   a. functionalism.
   b. symbolic interactionism.
   c. dramaturgical theory.
   d. conflict theory.

20. In explaining the high U.S. divorce rate, the ______________ perspective would focus on
    explanations such as emotional satisfaction, the meaning of children, and the meaning of
    parenthood. (22-23)
   a. conflict
   b. functional
   c. symbolic interaction
   d. exchange

21. According to Robert Merton, an action that has an unintended consequence that can hurt a
    system's equilibrium is a: (24)
   a. manifest function.
   b. latent function.
c. dysfunction.
d. latent dysfunction.

22. Industrialization and urbanization have undermined the traditional purposes of the family, according to theorists using _______________ analysis. (26)
   a. conflict
   b. exchange
   c. symbolic interaction
   d. functional

23. The idea that conflict is inherent in all relations that have authority was first asserted by: (27)
   a. Karl Marx.
   b. Emile Durkheim.
   c. Ralph Dahrendorf.
   d. Auguste Comte.

24. Which sociologist noted that conflict is most likely to develop among people who are in close relationships: (27)
   a. Karl Marx
   b. Lewis Coser
   c. Herbert Spencer
   d. Robert Edgerton

25. Conflict theorists might explain the high rate of divorce by looking at: (27)
   a. the changing meanings associated with marriage and divorce.
   b. society's basic inequalities between males and females.
   c. changes that have weakened the family unit.
   d. the loss of family functions which held a husband and wife together.

26. According to your text, which theoretical perspective is best for studying human behavior? (28)
   a. the functionalist perspective
   b. the symbolic interactionist perspective
   c. the conflict perspective
   d. a combination of all of the above.

27. The first phase of sociology in the United States was characterized by: (29)
   a. a concern with establishing sociology as a social science.
   b. a focus on establishing sociology as a respectable field of knowledge.
   c. an interest in using sociological knowledge to improve social life and change society.
   d. a broad acceptance of women and racial minorities within the discipline.

28. What is the American Sociological Association promoting? (30)
   a. that sociological data is used more often by politicians and policy makers.
   b. that sociologists do research that is value free.
   c. that sociological research is emphasized.
   d. none of the above.

29. What did Devah Pager find from her research on if prison records made a difference in getting a job: (30)
a. that having a prison record did not make a difference in terms of getting a job.
b. that gender played a significant role in who got offered a job.
c. that white men with a prison record were more likely to be offered a job than African American men with a clean record.
d. that white women with a record were less likely to get a job than a white male with a prison record.

30. What trend does the author of your text suggest is likely to transform the scope and focus of U.S. sociology in the future? (31)
   a. race, class, and gender inequalities
   b. cultural diversity
   c. technology
   d. globalization

**TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS**

1. _____The sociological perspective helps us understand that people's social experiences underlie what they feel and do. (2)
2. _____Social location is where people are located in history and society. (2)
3. _____Anthropology focuses on preliterate peoples. (4)
4. _____Political scientists study the ways in which people govern themselves. (4)
5. _____Sociologists believe that internal mechanisms are very important in explaining an individual's thinking and motivations. (4-5)
6. _____Sociology has few similarities to other social sciences. (5)
7. _____Historically, the success of the natural sciences led to the search for answers to the social world as well. (6)
8. _____Herbert Spencer believed that human societies evolve like those of animal species. (7-8)
9. _____Karl Marx thought that a classless society eventually would exist. (8-9)
10. _____Durkheim found that social integration is a key social factor in studying suicide. (10)
11. _____The ideas of Max Weber and Karl Marx are almost identical. (8-11)
12. _____According to Weber, subjective meanings are important in understanding human behavior. (11-12)
13. _____Herbert Spencer stressed that to understand human people we should use Verstehen. (12)
14. _____Harriet Martineau was widely recognized for her pioneering studies of social life in Great Britain and the United States. (14-15)
15. _____There are three major theoretical perspectives within the discipline of sociology. (21)
16. _____Symbolic interactionists primarily analyze how our definitions of ourselves and others underlie our behaviors. (21-22)
17. _____According to functionalists, the family has lost all of its traditional purposes. (24)
18. _____All conflict theorists focus on conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. (27)
19. _____Symbolic interactionism and conflict theories use macro-level analysis. (29)
20. _____Public sociology encourages politicians and policy makers to use sociological data. (30)

**FILL-IN-THE-BLANK QUESTIONS**

1. The _____ stresses the social contexts in which people are immersed and that influence their lives. (2)
CHAPTER 1

2. The _________ are the academic disciplines designed to explain and predict the events in
the natural environment. (3)

3. A__________ is a statement that goes beyond the individual case and is applied to a
broad group or situation. (5)

4. Using objective, systematic observations to test theories is known as the ___________.
(6)

5. A ______________________ is a general statement about how some parts of the world
fit together and how they work. (21)

6. The theoretical perspective in which society is viewed as composed of symbols that
people use to establish meaning, develop their views of the world, and communicate with
one another is _______________________. (21)

7. ______________ analysis is a theoretical framework in which society is
viewed as composed of various parts, each with a function that contributes to society’s
equilibrium.(24)

8. If an action is intended to help some part of a system, it is a ______________
function. (24)

9. Lewis Coser pointed out that _______is most likely to develop among people who are in
close relationships. (27)

10. Feminist stress that men and women should have ________ rights. (27)

11. Conflict theorists see __________ as reflecting society’s basic inequalities between male
and females. (27)

12. Functionalists and conflict theorists focus on the ________ level; that is they examine
large-scale patterns of society. (29)

13. A tension between social reform and ________ has always run through sociology. (28)

14. ____________ would be of interest to symbolic interactionist . (28)

15. ____________ is the breaking down of national boundaries because of advances in
communication, trade, and travel. (31)

MATCH THESE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

_____ 1. Auguste Comte a. Founder of University of Chicago sociology department
_____ 2. Albion Small b. was an early African American sociologist
_____ 3. Karl Marx c. proposed the use of positivism
_____ 4. C. Wright Mills d. stressed social facts
_____ 5. Emile Durkheim e. tried to bridge the gap between the powerful and powerless
_____ 6. Harriet Martineau f. believed religion was a central force in social change
_____ 7. Charles Horton g. believed the key to human history was class struggle
   Cooley
_____ 8. W. E. B. Du Bois h. encouraged North American sociologists to focus on
   social reform
_____ 9. Max Weber i. published Society in America and translated Comte’s work
   into English
_____ 10. Jane Addams j. founder of symbolic interactionism

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Explain what the sociological perspective encompasses and then, using that perspective,
discuss the forces that shaped the discipline of sociology.
2. Emile Durkheim studied European society at a time when it was undergoing major social upheaval as a result of the industrial revolution. In this first chapter, you are introduced to some of his major contributions — his work on suicide and his conclusions about social integration and anomie. Summarize what his contributions were and then consider how they are still useful for understanding social life today.

3. The textbook notes that *Verstehen* and social facts go hand in hand; explain how this is so. Assume that you have been asked to carry out research to find out more about why growing numbers of women and children are homeless and what particular problems they face. Discuss how you could use both *Verstehen* and social facts in your study.

4. Explain why there has been a continuing tension between analyzing society and working toward reforming society since the very beginning of society.

5. Explain what Weber meant when he said that sociology should be value free. Do you think this is possible? How do values play a role in determining the purpose and use of sociology?