



DIANA KENDALL

SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES

THE ESSENTIALS

SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES

the essentials

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EDITION

SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES

the essentials

Diana Kendall

Baylor University



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Preface

Welcome to the tenth edition of *Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials*! This edition marks a milestone in that this best-selling text has been extensively used for more than two decades in college and university classrooms across the United States, Canada, and other nations. However, *Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials* continues to live up to its name, remaining highly current and relevant to today's students and professors and reflecting the latest available data and new insights on what is going on in our nation and world from a sociological perspective.

This edition focuses on social change and ways in which media, particularly social media, and various other forms of technology inevitably bring about new ways of living, interacting with others, or doing some activity or task. For example, the theme of change and “going green” in large urban spaces is reflected by the tenth edition's livelier, exciting new cover and is carried throughout the text in updates to the interior design, artwork, and photos. In addition, new sections have been added throughout on social change, and the former “Media Framing” boxes have been expanded to include topics on social media and social change.

Like previous editions, the tenth edition highlights topics ranging from popular culture icons and social networking to far-more-serious issues of our times, such as the social effects of massive natural and human disasters, gun violence, terrorism, war, and the individual and social consequences of problems such as growing inequality between the wealthiest and the poorest people and nations, persistent unemployment, migration concerns worldwide, and other persistent issues and problems. In this edition even more attention is paid to the theme of social change and how it affects all of our lives.

The second decade of the twenty-first century offers unprecedented challenges and opportunities for each of us as individuals and for our larger society and world. In the United States, we can no longer take for granted the peace and economic prosperity that many—but far from all—people were able to enjoy in previous decades. However, even as some things change, others remain the same, and among the things that have not changed are the significance

of education and the profound importance of understanding how and why people act the way they do. It is also important to analyze how societies grapple with issues such as economic hardship and the threat of terrorist attacks and war, and to gain a better understanding of why many of us seek stability in our social institutions—including family, religion, education, government, and media—even if we believe that some of these institutions might benefit from certain changes.

Like previous editions, the tenth edition of *Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials* highlights the relevance of sociology to help students connect with the subject and the full spectrum of topics and issues that it encompasses. It achieves this connection by providing a meaningful, concrete context within which to learn. Specifically, it presents the stories—the *lived experiences*—of real individuals and the social issues they face while discussing a diverse array of classical and contemporary theories and examining interesting and relevant research. The first-person commentaries that begin each chapter show students how sociology can help them understand the important questions and social issues that not only these other individuals face but that they themselves may face as well.

Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials includes the best work of classical and established contemporary sociologists, and it weaves an inclusive treatment of *all* people—across lines of race/ethnicity, class, gender, age, ability/disability, and other social attributes—into the examination of sociology in *all* chapters. It does not water down the treatment of sociology for students! *Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials* provides students with the most relevant information about sociological thinking and helps them to consider contemporary social issues through the lens of diversity. While helping students learn to appreciate how sociology can help them better understand the world, this text also encourages them to see themselves as *members of their communities* and shows them what can be done in responding to social issues. As a result, students learn how sociology is not only a collection of concepts and theories but also a field that can make a difference in their lives, their communities, and the world at large.

What's New to the Tenth Edition?

The tenth edition builds on the best of previous editions but places more emphasis on social change, while offering new insights, learning tools, and opportunities to apply the content of each chapter to relevant sociological issues and major concerns of the twenty-first century. As it is my goal to make each edition better than the previous one, I have revised all the chapters to reflect the latest in sociological theory and research, and have updated examples throughout. Additionally, all statistics, such as data relating to crime, demographics, health, and the economy, are the latest available at the time of this writing.

To further emphasize the new theme on social change, the “Media Framing” box has been expanded to include issues and societal changes from the increased use of social media. In addition, the feature titled “Sociology and Social Policy” has been brought back to this edition. This feature discusses important social issues (such as the high rate of suicide in the military, the right of homeless people to occupy public spaces, and the extent to which employers should be able to spy on employees) to provide a systematic examination of how social policy and law may bring about social change or impede it.

To assist your students in learning about sociology and reflecting their knowledge on tests, I have continued to revise the learning objectives at the beginning of each chapter, provide integrated learning objective (LO) icons throughout the chapter, and offer students a study guide at the end of each chapter. The learning objectives have been carefully conceived to help the reader focus on the most crucial concepts of the chapter.

Changes by Chapter

Chapter 1, The Sociological Perspective and Research Process

- New chapter-opening lived experiences about the relationship among suicide, bullying, and social media
- Revised “Sociology and Everyday Life” quiz: “How Much Do You Know About Suicide?”
- Updated “Sociology Works!”: “Durkheim’s Classical Study of Suicide and Young People in India Today”
- Updated Figure 1.14, “Suicide Rates by Race and Sex”
- New “Sociology and Social Policy” box: “Establishing Policies to Help Prevent Military Suicides”
- Revised and updated “Understanding Data Presentations”

- Revised and updated Table 1.1: “Rates (per 100,000 U.S. Population) for Homicide, Suicide, and Firearm-Related Deaths of Youths Ages 15–19, by Gender, 2009”
- Updated Figure 1.20, “National Suicide Statistics at a Glance”
- New “Suicide in the Media” box: “Reporting on Bullying and Suicide: A Cause-and-Effect Relationship?”
- New discussion of Sudhir Venkatesh’s *Floating City: A Rogue Sociologist Lost and Found in New York’s Underground Economy* as an example of ethnography
- New second “Concept Quick Review”: “Strengths and Weaknesses of Social Research Methods”

Chapter 2, Culture

- New chapter-opening lived experience about the relationship between the food truck movement and cultural diversity
- Updated Figure 2.6, “States with Official English Laws”
- Updated “Census Profiles”: “Languages Spoken in U.S. Households”
- Updated Figure 2.10, “Heterogeneity of U.S. Society”
- Updated Figure 2.11, “Cultural Diversity: A Nation of Immigrants”
- New “Sociology in Global Perspective” box: “What Do Cultural Norms Say About Drinking Behavior?”

Chapter 3, Socialization

- Shortened discussion of social psychological theories of human development and added section on symbolic interactionist, functionalist, and conflict perspectives on human development
- Revised discussion of Mead’s “I,” “me,” and the “self”
- Revised “Concept Quick Review,” which now includes functionalist and conflict perspectives on socialization
- Revised and updated discussion on agents of socialization
- Revised “Sociology Works!”: “The Issue of Excessive Praise”
- New Figure 3.4, “Types of Maltreatment Among Children Under Age 18”
- Updated “Sociology in Global Perspective”: “Open Doors: Study Abroad and Global Socialization”

Chapter 4, Social Structure and Interaction in Everyday Life

- Updated “Sociology and Everyday Life” quiz: “How Much Do You Know About Homeless

Persons and the Social Structure of Homelessness?”

- Revised “Homelessness in the Media” box
- Revised Figure 4.4, “Causes of Family Homelessness in 29 Cities”
- Revised Figure 4.8, “Who Are the Homeless?”
- New section: “Societies, Technology, and Sociocultural Change”
- Expanded discussion of Durkheim’s mechanical and organic solidarity
- New Table 4.1, “Technocratic Bases of Society”
- New Table 4.2, “Comparing *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft* Societies”
- New examples of the self-fulfilling prophecy as it relates to homeless persons
- Expanded discussion of the dramaturgical perspective, with new concept of social script added
- Updated “Census Profiles”: “Computer and Internet Access in U.S. Households”
- New “Sociology and Social Policy” box: “Homeless Rights Versus Public Space”

Chapter 5, Groups and Organizations

- Updated “Community in the Media” reflecting how social media have affected this phenomenon
- Updated Figure 5.5, “Results of Milgram’s Obedience Experiment”
- Revised “Sociology Works!”: “Ingroups, Outgroups, and ‘Members Only’ Clubs”
- Updated information on Stanley Milgram’s experiments on obedience to authority
- Added definition of *leadership* from a sociological viewpoint
- Expanded discussion and examples of iron law of oligarchy
- New “Sociology and Social Policy” box: “In a High-Tech World, Should Employers Be Allowed to ‘Spy’ on Their Workers?”
- Revised and updated “Organizations in the Future” to include “Socially Sustainable Organizations” and “Globalization, Technology, and ‘Smart Working’”

Chapter 6, Deviance and Crime

- New chapter-opening lived experience, “When the Unspeakable Happens,” on the final police report on the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, Newtown, Connecticut
- New “Sociology and Everyday Life” quiz: “How Much Do You Know About Guns and Violence?”
- Updated crime statistics throughout chapter
- Revised “Sociology Works!”: “Social Definitions of Deviance: Tracking Sasquatch”
- New section on “Internet Computer Crime”
- Updated Figure 6.8, “Distribution of Arrests by Type of Offense, 2012”

- Updated Figure 6.9, “The FBI Crime Clock, 2012”
- New Figure 6.10, “Top Reported Internet Crime Types”
- Updated Figure 6.13, “Arrest Rates by Gender, 2012 (Selected Offenses)”
- New Figure 6.14, “Arrest Rates by Race, 2012 (Selected Offenses)”
- Updated Figure 6.18, “Death Row Census, April 1, 2013”
- New “Sociology and Social Policy” box: “The Long War Over Gun Control”
- New “Media” box: “Violent Crime in the Media”
- Updated “U.S. Deviance and Crime in the Future” section
- Updated “Transnational Crime and the Global Criminal Economy” section

Chapter 7, Class and Stratification in the United States

- New chapter-opening lived experience, “The Power of Class,” on Annette Lareau’s findings on the effects of “unequal childhoods” on long-term, class-based inequality
- Updated “Sociology and Everyday Life” quiz: “How Much Do You Know About Wealth, Poverty, and the American Dream?”
- Updated information and statistics on wealth, income, poverty, and health insurance coverage throughout chapter
- New “Sociology in Global Perspective”: “A Day in Your Life: How Are You Touched by Modern Slavery?”
- Updated Figure 7.11, “Distribution of Pretax Income in the United States, 2011”
- Updated Figure 7.12, “Median Household Income in the United States”
- Updated Figure 7.13, “Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in the United States”
- Updated Figure 7.14, “Racial Divide in Net Worth, Shown in 2012 Dollars”
- Updated Figure 7.15, “Rate of Uninsurance by Household Income, 2012”
- Updated Figure 7.17, “Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State, 2012”
- Updated Figure 7.18, “U.S. Poverty Rates by Age, 1959–2012”
- Expanded discussion of economic and structural sources of poverty
- Updated “U.S. Stratification in the Future” section

Chapter 8, Global Stratification

- New chapter-opening lived experience, “Leaving the Snare of Poverty,” on how impoverished girls have benefited from efforts to eradicate global poverty
- Updated statistics throughout

- Updated Figure 8.1, “Income Gap Between the World’s Richest and Poorest People”
- New Figure 8.3 showing income amounts in “High-, Middle-, and Low-Income Economies in Global Perspective”
- Updated Figure 8.6, “Indicators of Human Development”
- Revised and updated “Child Labor Issues in the Media”
- Revised Concept Quick Review
- New “Sociology and Social Policy” box: “Fighting Extreme Poverty One Social Policy at a Time”
- Updated discussion of *maquiladora* plants in the twenty-first century
- Revised and updated: “Sociology Works!”: “The Relationship Between Place and Global Poverty”

Chapter 9, Race and Ethnicity

- Updated “Sociology and Everyday Life” quiz: “How Much Do You Know About Race, Ethnicity, and Sports?”
- Expanded discussion of race as a socially constructed reality
- Updated Figure 9.9, “U.S. Tribal Colleges and Universities”
- Revised and updated “Sociology in Global Perspective” box: “Racism in European Football”
- Expanded discussion of individual and institutional discrimination
- Revised and updated “Sociology Works!”: “A Starting Point for Social Change”
- Revised and updated “Sports in the Media” box: “Media Coverage of Minorities in Sports”
- Updated information on all groups in “Racial and Ethnic Groups in the United States”
- Added sections on Arab Americans and Iranian (Persian) Americans under “Middle Eastern Americans”

Chapter 10, Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

- New chapter-opening lived experience, “Child Beauty Pageants and the Sexualization of Girls,” on child beauty pageants as related to body image and self-identity among girls and women
- Expanded and updated discussion of LGBT issues and statistics
- Revised and updated “Sociology Works!”: “Institutional Discrimination: Women in a Locker-Room Culture”
- Expanded discussion of discrimination based on sexual orientation, including housing, health care, and marital rights
- Updated Figure 10.10, “The Wage Gap, 2012”
- Updated Figure 10.11, “Women’s Wages as a Percentage of Men’s in Each Racial–Ethnic Category, 2012”

- Updated Figure 10.12, “Women’s Earnings as a Percentage of Men’s by State and Puerto Rico, 2012”
- Updated Census Profile, “Single Mothers with Children Under 18”
- Updated Table 10.3, “Percentage of the Workforce Represented by Women, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans in Selected Occupations”
- Updated data on pay equity
- Revised and updated discussion on “Paid Work and Family Work,” including new study by the Pew Research Center

Chapter 11, Families and Intimate Relationships

- New chapter-opening lived experience, “Diverse Family Landscapes in the Twenty-First Century,” about different patterns in contemporary families
- Updated “Census Profiles”: “Household Composition, 1970 and 2012”
- Expanded discussion of cohabitation and domestic partnerships
- New section on same-sex marriages
- Updated statistics on marriage, housework, child care, birth and fertility rates, adoption, teen childbearing, single-parent households, two-parent households, remaining single, and divorce
- Revised discussion of children in foster care and family violence
- New Figure 11.6, “Estimated Number of Opposite-Sex Couples Cohabiting in the United States in Selected Years, 1996–2013”
- Updated Figure 11.11, “Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old for Selected Years, 1970–2012”
- Updated Figure 11.12, “Marital Status of U.S. Population Ages 18 and Over by Race/Ethnicity, 2012”

Chapter 12, Education and Religion

- Chapter revised to provide latest available data on education and religion
- Updated “Sociology Works!”: “Stopping Bullying: Character Building and Social Norms”
- New “Sociology and Social Policy” box: “Prayer in Public Schools? The Issue of Separation of Church and State”
- Revised discussion on tracking, detracking, and the hidden curriculum to show the continued relevance of these issues
- Updated Figure 12.6, “Percentage Distribution of Total Public Elementary–Secondary School System Revenue, 2012–2013”
- Updated Figure 12.7, “Status Dropout Rates for 16- to 24-Year-Olds, by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Region”

- Revised and updated discussion of racial segregation and resegregation
- Revised and updated discussion of school safety and school violence
- Revised and updated data on community colleges and four-year colleges and universities
- Updated information on lack of student and faculty diversity based on race/ethnicity and gender
- Expanded discussion on the future of education and Obama administration plans for funding and improving education
- Updated “Census Profiles”: “Educational Achievement of Persons Ages 25 and Over”
- Updated Table 12.1, “Major World Religions,” to show newer estimates of the number of current followers of world’s religions
- Updated Table 12.3, “Top 25 U.S. Denominations That Self-Identify as Christian in 2012”
- New section under “The Secularization Debate” about the latest Pew study on people who do not affiliate with any religion
- Updated Figure 12.15, “U.S. Religious Traditions’ Membership”

Chapter 13, Politics and the Economy in Global Perspective

- New opening lived experience, “Experiencing Politics and History at a Presidential Inauguration,” about college students’ involvement in the 2013 presidential inauguration
- New “Sociology and Everyday Life” quiz: “How Much Do You Know About Politics and the Media?”
- Thoroughly revised and updated discussions on the 2012 presidential election
- New section on Super PACs and the part they played in recent elections
- New Figure 13.4, “Influence of Super PACs in the 2012 Presidential Election”
- Revised “Sociology Works!”: “C. Wright Mills’s Ideas About the Media: Ahead of His Time?”
- Updated section “Discontent with the Current Political System and Parties,” now including expanded discussions of the Tea Party and the Green Party
- Revised and updated discussion of voter participation and voter apathy in the 2012 presidential election
- New Figure 13.8, “Voter Participation in the 2012 Presidential Election by Race and Ethnicity”
- New Figure 13.9, “2012 Presidential Election: State by State”
- Updated discussion of federal bureaucracy
- Updated Figure 13.10, “The ‘Typical’ Federal Civilian Employee”

- Updated discussion of the military–industrial complex and defense spending
- New “Census Profiles” showing types of occupations by race and ethnicity of employees
- New “Politics in the Media” box: “‘The Life of Julia’: The Internet, Twitter, and Continuing Political Battles”
- Updated Figure 13.13, “The General Motors Board of Directors”
- Updated Table 13.1, “Revenues of the World’s 20 Largest Public and Private Corporations, 2012”
- Updated Table 13.2, “The Music Industry’s Big Three”

Chapter 14, Health, Health Care, and Disability

- Updated statistics throughout on health in the United States and other nations
- Revised and updated discussion of lifestyle factors as they relate to health, including alcohol, nicotine, and sexually transmitted diseases
- Updated Figure 14.8, “Chlamydia: Rates by Age and Sex, United States, 2012”
- Updated Figure 14.9, “Adult Obesity in the United States, 2012”
- Updated Figure 14.11, “Increase in Cost of Health Care, 1993–2012”
- Updated Figure 14.12, “Uninsured Children by Poverty Status, Household Income, Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Nativity, 2012”
- Revised and updated discussion of Affordable Care Act implementation and possible consequences for new health insurance coverage and quality of health care

Chapter 15, Population and Urbanization

- Updated Figure 15.1, “Growth in the World’s Population, 2012”
- Updated information on rates of fertility, mortality, and migration
- Expanded and updated discussion on proposals regarding U.S. immigration law
- Updated Figure 15.12, “The World’s Fourteen Largest Agglomerations”
- New “Immigration in the Media” box: “Language Matters: ‘Illegal Immigrants’ No Longer”

Chapter 16, Collective Behavior, Social Movements, and Social Change

- New opening lived experience, “Many Voices Needed for Social Change”
- Updated discussion of Love Canal and ongoing activism by environmental groups
- Updated Table 16.1, “Top 10 Policy Priorities: 2014”

- Updated examples of panics, protest rallies, rumors, public opinion, and other forms of collective behavior
- New Figure 16.8, “Stages in Social Movements”

Overview of the Text’s Contents

Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials, tenth edition, contains sixteen high-interest, up-to-date, clearly organized chapters to introduce students to the best of sociological thinking. The length of the text makes full coverage of the book possible in the time typically allocated to the introductory course so that all students are purchasing a book that their instructors will have the time and desire to cover in its entirety.

Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials is divided into five parts.

Part 1 establishes the foundation for studying society and social life. **Chapter 1** introduces students to the sociological imagination and traces the development of sociological thinking. The chapter sets forth the major theoretical perspectives used by sociologists in analyzing compelling social issues and shows students how sociologists conduct research. This chapter provides a thorough description of both quantitative and qualitative methods of sociological research, and shows how these approaches have been used from the era of Emile Durkheim to the present to study social concerns such as suicide. In **Chapter 2** culture is spotlighted as either a stabilizing force or a force that can generate discord, conflict, and even violence in societies. Cultural diversity is discussed as a contemporary issue, and unique coverage is given to popular culture and leisure and to divergent perspectives on popular culture. **Chapter 3** looks at the positive and negative aspects of socialization, including a lived experience of learning the socialization cues of medical school. This chapter presents an innovative analysis of gender and racial–ethnic socialization, and issues associated with recent immigration.

Part 2 examines social groups and social control. **Chapter 4** applies the sociological imagination to an examination of society, social structure, and social interaction, using homelessness as a sustained example of the dynamic interplay of structure and interaction in society. Unique to this chapter are discussions of the sociology of emotions and of personal space as viewed through the lenses of race, class, gender, and age.

Chapter 5 analyzes groups and organizations, including innovative forms of social organization and ways in which organizational structures may

differentially affect people based on race, class, gender, and age. **Chapter 6** examines how deviance and crime emerge in societies, using diverse theoretical approaches to describe the nature of deviance, crime, and the criminal justice system. Key issues are dramatized for students through an analysis of recent research on peer cliques and gangs.

Part 3 focuses on social differences and social inequality, looking at issues of class, race/ethnicity, and sex/gender, while also touching on issues relating to social inequality based on age. **Chapter 7** focuses on class and stratification in the United States, analyzing the causes and consequences of inequality and poverty, including a discussion of the ideology and accessibility of the American Dream. **Chapter 8** addresses the issue of global stratification and examines differences in wealth and poverty in rich and poor nations around the world. Explanations for these differences are discussed.

The focus of **Chapter 9** is race and ethnicity, which includes an illustration of the historical relationship (or lack of it) between sports and upward mobility by persons from diverse racial–ethnic groups. A thorough analysis of prejudice, discrimination, theoretical perspectives, and the experiences of diverse racial and ethnic groups is presented, along with global racial and ethnic issues. **Chapter 10** examines sex and gender, with special emphasis on gender stratification in historical perspective. Linkages between gender socialization and contemporary gender inequality are described and illustrated by lived experiences and perspectives on body image.

Part 4 offers a systematic discussion of social institutions, building students’ awareness of the importance of these foundational elements of society and showing how a problem in one often has a significant influence on others. Families and intimate relationships are explored in **Chapter 11**, which includes both U.S. and global perspectives on family relationships, a view of families throughout the life course, and a discussion of diversity in contemporary U.S. families. Education and religion are presented in **Chapter 12**, which highlights important sociological theories pertaining to these social institutions and integrates the theme of the influence of religion on education and life. In the process, the chapter highlights issues of race, class, and gender inequalities in current U.S. education. The chapter also provides a thorough discussion of religion in global perspective, including a survey of world religions and an analysis of how religious beliefs affect other aspects of social life. Current trends in U.S. religion are explored, including various sociological explanations of why people look to religion to find purpose and meaning in life.

Chapter 13 discusses politics and the economy in global perspective, highlighting the international context in which contemporary political and economic systems operate and showing the intertwining nature of politics, the economy, and global media outlets. The chapter emphasizes the part that social media increasingly are playing in politics and the economy throughout the world.

Chapter 14 analyzes health, health care, and disability from both U.S. and global perspectives. Among the topics included are social epidemiology, lifestyle factors influencing health and illness, health care organization in the United States and other nations, social implications of advanced medical technology, and holistic and alternative medicine. This chapter is unique in that it contains a thorough discussion of the sociological perspectives on disability and of social inequalities based on disability. It focuses on the health-related issues of families in global perspective and on the diversity found in U.S. families today.

Part 5 surveys social dynamics and social change. **Chapter 15** examines population and urbanization, looking at demography, global population change, and the process and consequences of urbanization. Special attention is given to race- and class-based segregation in urban areas and the crisis in health care in central cities. **Chapter 16** concludes the text with an innovative analysis of collective behavior, social movements, and social change. Environmental activism is used as a sustained example to help students grasp the importance of collective behavior and social movements in producing social change.

Distinctive, Classroom-Tested Features

The following special features are specifically designed to demonstrate the relevance of sociology in our lives, as well as to support students' learning. As the preceding overview of the book's contents shows, these features appear throughout the text, some in every chapter, others in selected chapters.

Unparalleled Coverage of and Attention to Diversity

From its first edition, I have striven to integrate diversity in numerous ways throughout this book. The individuals portrayed and discussed in each chapter accurately mirror the diversity in society itself. As a result, this text speaks to a wide variety of students and captures their interest by taking into account

their concerns and perspectives. Moreover, the research used includes the best work of classical and established contemporary sociologists—including many white women and people of color—and it weaves an inclusive treatment of *all* people into the examination of sociology in *all* chapters. Therefore, this text helps students consider the significance of the interlocking nature of individuals' class, race, and gender (and, increasingly, age) in all aspects of social life.

Personal Narratives That Highlight Issues and Serve as Chapter-Length Examples

Authentic first-person commentaries appear in the “Sociology and Everyday Life” features that open each chapter and personalize the issue that unifies the chapter's coverage. These lived experiences provide opportunities for students to examine social life beyond their own experiences and for instructors to systematically incorporate into lectures and discussions an array of interesting and relevant topics that help demonstrate to students the value of applying sociology to their everyday lives.

Focus on the Relationship Between Sociology and Everyday Life

Each chapter has a brief quiz in the opening “Sociology and Everyday Life” feature that relates the sociological perspective to the pressing social issues presented in the vignette. (Answers are provided on a subsequent page.)

Emphasis on the Importance of a Global Perspective

The global implications of all topics are examined throughout each chapter and in the “Sociology in Global Perspective” boxes, which highlight our interconnected world and reveal how the sociological imagination extends beyond national borders.

Focus on Media

A significant benefit of a sociology course is encouraging critical thinking about such things as how the manner in which the media “package” news and entertainment influences our perception of social issues. This edition builds on the “Media” feature and expands coverage to include issues and societal changes related to the use of social media, as mentioned above.

Census Profiles

The Census Profiles feature highlights current relevant data from the U.S. Census Bureau, providing students with further insight into the United States.

Effective Study Aids

In addition to basic reading and study aids such as learning objectives, key terms, and a running glossary, *Sociology in Our Times* includes the following pedagogical aids to aid students' mastery of the course's content:

- **Concept Quick Review.** These tables categorize and contrast the major theories or perspectives on the specific topics presented in a chapter.
- **Questions for Critical Thinking.** Each chapter concludes with a set of questions to encourage students to reflect on important issues, to develop their own critical-thinking skills, and to highlight how ideas presented in one chapter often build on those developed previously.
- **Reflect & Analyze Questions.** From activating prior knowledge related to concepts and themes, to highlighting main ideas and reinforcing diverse perspectives, this text's questions encourage students to reflect on issues and to analyze content rather than to memorize and recall course content.
- **End-of-Chapter Summaries in Question-and-Answer Format.** Chapter summaries provide a built-in review for students by reexamining material covered in the chapter in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format to review, highlight, and reinforce the most important concepts and issues discussed in each chapter.

Comprehensive Supplements Package

Products for Blended and Online Courses

MindTap™: The Personal Learning Experience

MindTap Sociology for Kendall's Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials, tenth edition, Powered by Knewton from Cengage Learning, represents a new approach to a highly personalized, online learning platform. MindTap combines all of a student's learning tools—readings, multimedia, activities, and assessments—into a Learning Path that guides the student through the introduction to sociology course. Instructors personalize the experience by customizing the presentation of these learning tools to their students, even seamlessly introducing their own content into the Learning Path. Learn more at www.cengage.com/mindtap.

MindTap Sociology for Kendall's Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials, Powered by Knewton from Cengage Learning, is easy to use and saves instructors time by allowing them to

- Customize the course—from tools to text—and make adjustments “on the fly,” making it possible to intertwine breaking news into their lessons and incorporate today's teachable moments
- Promote personalization by segmenting course content into movable objects, encourage interactivity, and ensure student engagement
- Integrate multimedia assets, in-context exercises, and supplements—student engagement will increase, leading to better student outcomes
- Track students' use, activities, and comprehension in real time, providing opportunities for early intervention to influence progress and outcomes
- Assess knowledge throughout each section: after readings, in activities, homework, and quizzes
- Automatically grade homework and quizzes

Course Reader for Sociology.

CourseReader for Sociology allows you to create a fully customized online reader in minutes. You can access a rich collection of thousands of primary and secondary sources, readings, and audio and video selections from multiple disciplines. Each selection includes a descriptive introduction that puts it into context, and every selection is further supported by both critical-thinking and multiple-choice questions designed to reinforce key points. This easy-to-use solution allows you to select exactly the content you need for your courses, and it is loaded with convenient pedagogical features, such as highlighting, printing, note taking, and downloadable MP3 audio files for each reading. You have the freedom to assign and customize individualized content at an affordable price. CourseReader is the perfect complement to any class.

Resources for Customizing Your Textbook

Cengage Learning is pleased to offer three modules that help you tailor *Sociology in Our Times: The Essentials*, tenth edition, to your course. In addition, you can choose to add your own materials or reorganize the table of contents. Work with your local Cengage Learning consultant to find out more.

Careers in Sociology Module. Written by leading author Joan Ferrante, Northern Kentucky University, the *Careers in Sociology* module offers

the most extensive and useful information on careers that is available. This module provides six career tracks, each of which has a “featured employer,” a job description, and a letter of recommendation (written by a professor for a sociology student) or application (written by a sociology student). The module also includes résumé-building tips on how to make the most out of being a sociology major and offers specific course suggestions along with the transferable skills gained by taking these courses. As part of Cengage Learning’s Add-a-Module Program, *Careers in Sociology* can be purchased separately, bundled, or customized with any of our introductory texts. The modules present topics not typically covered in most introductory texts but often requested by instructors.

Sociology of Sports Module. The *Sociology of Sports* module, authored by Jerry M. Lewis, Kent State University, examines why sociologists are interested in sports, mass media and sports, popular culture and sports (including feature-length films on sports), sports and religion, drugs and sports, and violence and sports. As part of Cengage Learning’s Add-a-Module Program, *Sociology of Sports* can be purchased separately, bundled, or customized with any of our introductory texts. The modules present topics not typically covered in most introductory texts but often requested by instructors.

Rural Sociology Module. The *Rural Sociology* module, authored by Carol A. Jenkins, Glendale Community College–Arizona, presents the realities of life in rural America. Many people imagine a rural America characterized by farming, similar cultures, and close-knit communities. However, rural Americans and rural communities are extremely diverse—demographically, culturally, socially, economically, and environmentally. The module presents these characteristics of rural life in a comprehensive and accessible format for introductory sociology students. As part of Cengage Learning’s Add-a-Module program, *Rural Sociology* can be purchased separately, bundled, or customized with any of our introductory sociology texts. The modules present topics not typically covered in most introductory texts but often requested by instructors.

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Online Test Bank. Prepared by Josh Packard of Northern Colorado University, the tenth edition’s test bank consists of revised and updated multiple-choice questions and true/false questions for each chapter of the text, along with an answer key and text references for each question. Each multiple-choice item has the question type (fact, concept, or application) indicated. Also included are short-answer and essay questions for each chapter. The author of the Test Bank has also keyed each test question to its related learning objective for the chapter.

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I invite you to send your comments and suggestions about this book to me in care of:

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SOCIOLOGY IN OUR TIMES

the essentials



1

THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE AND RESEARCH PROCESS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- L01** Explain what sociology can contribute to our understanding of social life.
- L02** Discuss the sociological imagination and explain how we develop a global sociological imagination.
- L03** Describe the historical context in which sociological thinking developed and state reasons why many early social thinkers were concerned with social order and stability.
- L04** Identify reasons why many later social thinkers were concerned with social change.
- L05** Describe key differences in functionalist, conflict, symbolic interactionist, and postmodern perspectives on contemporary social life.
- L06** Explain why sociological research is necessary and point out how it may challenge our commonsense beliefs about pressing issues such as suicide.
- L07** Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research, and identify the steps in each method.
- L08** Describe survey research and briefly discuss three types of surveys.
- L09** Compare research methods used in surveys, secondary analysis of existing data, field research, and experiments.
- L010** Discuss ethical issues in research and identify professional codes that protect research participants.

The Sociology of Suicide Trends Today

“Why are you alive?”

“You’re ugly.”



Rebecca Ann Sedwick

“You should die.”

“Why don’t you go kill yourself.”

“Can u die please?”

—After more than a year of receiving online bullying comments like these, Rebecca Ann Sedwick, a 12-year-old Tampa, Florida, girl, jumped from a concrete silo tower to her death at an abandoned cement plant. Prior to this terrible event, Rebecca changed her online screen name to “That Dead Girl.” After her death, law enforcement officials stated that she was “absolutely terrorized on social media” (Alvarez, 2013), while psychologists pointed out that she had been a victim of the “cool to be cruel” cyber culture (Ng, 2013).

“... go die, evry1 wud be happy.”

“Drink bleach.”

—London, England, resident Hanna Smith, age 14, repeatedly had hostile comments like these posted about her on ASK.fm prior to her suicide (Dolan and Robinson, 2013).

Suicides committed by young people who have been the victims of online bullying deeply touch the lives of their families, friends, and others who have not met them. Although we will never know the full story of what happened to Rebecca Ann Sedwick and the others described, these tragic occurrences bring us to larger sociological questions: Why does anyone commit suicide? Is suicide purely an individual phenomenon, or is it related to our social interactions and the social environment and society in which we live? How have technologies such as smartphones and social media affected our communication—both positively and negatively—with others?

Social media use among teens and college students continues to grow rapidly. We are engulfed by smartphones, tablets, and computers. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other Internet-based social networking sites are taken for granted. We enjoy the positive effects of social media, but the digital age may also produce harmful outcomes, particularly when some people harass others, causing psychological and physical harm and sometimes even bullying them into suicide.

Although suicide may seem like a “downer” for beginning our study of sociology, I have chosen this topic because it is one of the first social issues that early sociologists studied. These thinkers believed that identifying the *social causes* of such behavior sets sociology apart from psychology, philosophy, and other areas of inquiry.

In this chapter we examine how sociological theories and research can help us understand the *social* and *structural* origins of the seemingly *individualistic* act of taking one’s own life. We will see how sociological theory and research methods might be used to answer complex questions, and we will wrestle with some of the difficulties that sociologists experience as they study human behavior.

Putting Social Life into Perspective

LO1 *Sociology is the systematic study of human society and social interaction.* It is a *systematic* study because sociologists apply

“You think you want to die, but in reality you just want to be saved.”

—Hanna Smith posted a picture of this statement written in a spiral notebook to her Facebook page less than 24 hours prior to killing herself (Dolan and Robinson, 2013).

“Goodbye forever my good friends, goodbye, I regret nothing. I have chosen to go with

3 peoples advice and kill myself. I just wish it was faster.”

—Prior to his suicide, Bart Palosz, a 15-year-old native of Poland who resided in Greenwich, Connecticut, for seven years, used his Google Plus page to express his suicidal musings during patterns of constant bullying by other boys at his school (Hussey and Leland, 2013).

How Much Do You Know About Suicide?

True False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Suicide is the number-one cause of injury-related death in the United States. |
| T | F | 2. There is 1 suicide for every 25 attempted suicides annually in the United States. |
| T | F | 3. Suicide rates are lower for young Native Americans (American Indians) and Alaska Natives between the ages of 15 to 34 than for persons in the same age bracket for any other racial-ethnic category in the United States. |
| T | F | 4. In grades 9 through 12, significantly more Latina (Hispanic) female students report that they have attempted suicide in the last year than African American (black) non-Latin female students and white American non-Hispanic female students. |

True False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 5. Females complete suicide (take their own life) at a much higher rate than that of males. |
| T | F | 6. Firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among males and females. |
| T | F | 7. Alcohol intoxication is present in nearly one-fourth of all suicide deaths in the United States. |
| T | F | 8. Government agencies such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have developed public health programs to prevent suicidal behavior and now emphasize that promoting individual, family, and community connectedness is an important way to prevent such behavior. |

Answers on page 6.

both theoretical perspectives and research methods (or orderly approaches) to examinations of social behavior. Sociologists study human societies and their social interactions in order to develop theories of how human behavior is shaped by group life and how, in turn, group life is affected by individuals.

Why Should You Study Sociology?

Sociology helps us gain a better understanding of our social world and ourselves. It enables us to see how the groups to which we belong and the society in which we live largely shape behavior. A **society is a large social grouping that shares the same geographical territory and is subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations**, such as the United States, Mexico, or Nigeria. Examining the world order helps us understand that each of us is affected by *global interdependence*—a relationship in which the lives of all people are intertwined closely and any one nation’s problems are part of a larger global problem. Environmental

problems are an example: People throughout the world share the same biosphere. When environmental degradation, such as removing natural resources or polluting the air and water, takes place in one region, it may have an adverse effect on people around the globe.

Individuals can make use of sociology on a more personal level. Sociology enables us to move beyond established ways of thinking, thus allowing us to gain new insights into ourselves and to develop a greater awareness of the connection between our own “world” and that of other people. According to the sociologist Peter Berger (1963: 23), sociological inquiry helps us see that “things are not what they

sociology the systematic study of human society and social interaction.

society a large social grouping that shares the same geographical territory and is subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations.

ANSWERS to the Sociology Quiz on Suicide

- 1. True.** Suicide became the number-one cause of injury-related death in the United States, surpassing car accidents, between 2000 and 2009 (the latest year for which data are available), when the death rate for suicide increased by 15 percent and decreased by 25 percent for car accidents.
- 2. True.** According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 completed suicide occurs for every 25 persons who attempt suicide in the United States.
- 3. False.** Native Americans (First Americans or American Indians) and Alaska Natives have the highest suicide rates per 100,000 in the United States. Among teens and young adults ages 15 to 34, the rate is 27.3 per 100,000, which is 2.4 times higher than the national average for that age group (11.4 per 100,000).
- 4. True.** Significantly more Latina (Hispanic) female students (13.5 percent) reported attempting suicide in the last year than African American (black) non-Latin female students and white American non-Hispanic female students (7.9 percent).
- 5. False.** Males *complete* suicide at a rate four times that of females. Male suicides account for 78.8 percent of all completed suicides in the United States; however, females are more likely than males to have had suicidal thoughts.
- 6. False.** Although firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among males (56.1 percent), poisoning is the most common method of suicide for females (38 percent).
- 7. True.** Alcohol intoxication is present in 24 percent (nearly one-fourth) of all suicide deaths in the United States.
- 8. True.** Government organizations such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have developed these programs and now emphasize that promoting individual, family, and community connectedness is an important way to prevent such behavior.

Sources: Based on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012d, 2012e.

seem.” Sociology provides new ways of approaching problems and making decisions in everyday life. For this reason, people with knowledge of sociology are employed in a variety of fields that apply sociological insights to everyday life (see Figure 1.1).

Sociology promotes understanding and tolerance by enabling each of us to look beyond intuition, common sense, and our personal experiences. Many of us rely on intuition or common sense

gained from personal experience to help us understand our daily lives and other people’s behavior. *Commonsense knowledge* guides ordinary conduct in everyday life. However, many commonsense notions are actually myths. A *myth* is a popular but false notion that may be used, either intentionally or unintentionally, to perpetuate certain beliefs or “theories” even in the light of conclusive evidence to the contrary. Before reading on, take the quiz in



FIGURE 1.1 FIELDS THAT USE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

In many careers, including jobs in health and human services, business, communication, academia, and law, the ability to analyze social science research is an important need.

Source: Based on Katzer, Cook, and Crouch, 1991. © Cengage Learning.

the Sociology and Everyday Life box at the opening of the chapter.

By contrast, sociologists strive to use scientific standards, not popular myths or hearsay, in studying society and social interaction. They use systematic research techniques and are accountable to the scientific community for their methods and the presentation of their findings. Whereas some sociologists argue that sociology must be completely value free—free from distorting subjective (personal or emotional) bias—others do not think that total objectivity is an attainable or desirable goal when studying human behavior. However, all sociologists attempt to discover patterns or commonalities in human behavior. When they study suicide, for example, they look for recurring patterns of behavior even though *individual* people usually commit the acts and *other individuals* suffer as a result of these actions.

Consequently, sociologists seek out the multiple causes and effects of suicide or other social issues. They analyze the impact of the problem not only from the standpoint of the people directly involved but also from the standpoint of the effects of such behavior on all people.

The Sociological Imagination

L02 Sociological reasoning is often referred to as the *sociological imagination*—the ability to see the relationship between individual experiences and the larger society (Mills, 1959b). The sociological imagination is important to each of us because having this awareness enables us to understand the link between our personal experiences and the social contexts in which they occur. Each of us lives in a society, and we live out a biography within some historical setting. Throughout our lives, we contribute to the shaping of society and to its history, even as we are made by society and the historical events that take place during our lifetime. The sociological imagination enables us to grasp the relationship between history at the societal level and our own biography at the individual level. It also helps us distinguish between personal troubles and social (or public) issues. C. Wright Mills (1959b) made this distinction between the two: *Personal troubles* are private problems that affect individuals and the networks of people with whom they associate regularly. As a result, individuals within their immediate social settings must solve those problems. For example, one person being unemployed may be a personal trouble. *Public issues* are problems that affect large numbers of people and often require solutions at the societal level. Widespread unemployment as a

result of economic changes such as plant closings is an example of a public issue. The sociological imagination helps us place seemingly personal troubles, such as losing one's job or feeling like committing suicide, into a larger social context, where we can distinguish whether and how personal troubles may be related to public issues.

Suicide as a Personal Trouble Often our individual experiences are largely beyond our own control. They are determined by society as a whole—by its historical development and its organization. However, in everyday life we frequently do not define personal experiences in these terms. If a person commits suicide, many people consider it to be the result of that individual's own personal problems.

Suicide as a Public Issue If we use the sociological imagination to look at the problem of suicide, we can see that it is often a public issue—a societal problem. Early sociologist Emile Durkheim refused to accept commonsense explanations of suicide. In what is probably the first sociological study to use scientific research methods, he related suicide to the issue of cohesiveness (or lack of it) in society instead of viewing suicide as an isolated act that could be understood only by studying individual personalities or inherited tendencies. In *Suicide* (1964b/1897), Durkheim documented his contention that a high suicide rate indicated large-scale societal problems.

The Importance of a Global Sociological Imagination

Although existing sociological theory and research provide the foundation for sociological thinking, we must reach beyond studies that have focused primarily on the United States to develop a more comprehensive *global* approach for the future (see Figure 1.2). In the twenty-first century, we face important challenges in a rapidly changing nation and world.

The world's *high-income countries* are nations with highly industrialized economies;

sociological imagination C. Wright Mills's term for the ability to see the relationship between individual experiences and the larger society.

high-income countries nations with highly industrialized economies; technologically advanced industrial, administrative, and service occupations; and relatively high levels of national and personal income.



High income: New York, United States



Low income: Congo



Middle income: China



FIGURE 1.2 THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES IN THE EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

High-income, middle-income, and low-income countries.

© Cengage Learning. Photos, left to right: John Berry/Syracuse Newspapers/The Image Works; Gable/Alamy; philipbigg/Alamy.

technologically advanced industrial, administrative, and service occupations; and relatively high levels of national and personal income. Examples include the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the countries of Western Europe.

As compared with other nations of the world, many high-income nations have a high standard of living and a lower death rate because of advances in nutrition and medical technology. However, everyone living in a so-called high-income country does not necessarily have these advantages. In contrast, **middle-income countries are nations with industrializing economies, particularly in urban areas, and moderate levels of national and personal income.** Examples of middle-income countries include the nations of Eastern Europe and many Latin American countries.

Low-income countries are primarily agrarian nations with little industrialization and low levels of national and personal income. Examples of low-income countries include many of the nations of Africa and Asia, particularly the People's Republic of China and India, where people typically work

the land and are among the poorest in the world. However, generalizations are difficult to make because there are wide differences in income and standards of living within many nations (see Chapter 8, "Global Stratification"). Throughout this text, we will continue to develop our sociological imaginations by examining social life here and in other nations. The future of our nation is deeply intertwined with the future of all other nations of the world on economic, political, environmental, and humanitarian levels.

Whatever your race/ethnicity, class, sex, or age, are you able to include in your thinking the perspectives of people who are quite dissimilar in experiences and points of view? Before you answer this question, a few definitions are in order. *Race* is a term used by many people to specify groups of people distinguished by physical characteristics such as skin color. However, there are no "pure" racial types, and the concept of race is considered by most sociologists to be a social construction that people use to justify existing social inequalities. (When we say that something is a "social construction," we mean that race, ethnicity, class, and gender do not really

mean anything apart from the meanings that people in societies give them.) When societies use these categories, the groupings privilege some categories of people over others. Unfortunately, the result is that many people act and respond as if these categories were a social reality rather than a construction.

Ethnicity refers to the cultural heritage or identity of a group and is based on factors such as language or country of origin. *Class* is the relative location of a person or group within the larger society, based on wealth, power, prestige, or other valued resources. *Sex* refers to the biological and anatomical differences between females and males. By contrast, *gender* refers to the meanings, beliefs, and practices associated with sex differences, referred to as *femininity* and *masculinity*.

The Development of Sociological Thinking

LO3 Throughout history, social philosophers and religious authorities have made countless observations about human behavior. However, the idea of observing how people lived, finding out what they thought, and doing so in a systematic manner that could be verified did not take hold until the nineteenth century and the social upheaval brought about by industrialization and urbanization.

Industrialization is the process by which societies are transformed from dependence on agriculture and handmade products to an emphasis on manufacturing and related industries. This process occurred first during the Industrial Revolution in Britain between 1760 and 1850, and was soon repeated throughout Western Europe. By the mid-nineteenth century, industrialization was well under way in the United States (Figure 1.3). Massive economic, technological, and social changes occurred as machine technology and the factory system shifted the economic base of these nations from agriculture to manufacturing: textiles, iron smelting, and related industries. Many people who had labored on the land were forced to leave their tightly knit rural communities and sacrifice well-defined social relationships to seek employment as factory workers in the emerging cities, which became the centers of industrial work.

Urbanization is the process by which an increasing proportion of a population lives in cities rather than in rural areas. Although cities existed long before the Industrial Revolution, the development of the factory system led to a rapid



Everett Collection/Newscom

FIGURE 1.3 As the Industrial Revolution swept through the United States beginning in the nineteenth century, children being employed in factories became increasingly common. Soon social thinkers began to explore such new social problems brought about by industrialization.

increase in both the number of cities and the size of their populations. People from very diverse backgrounds worked together in the same factory. At the same time, many people shifted from being *producers* to being *consumers*. For example, families living in the cities had to buy food with their wages because they could no longer grow their own crops to eat or to barter for other resources. Similarly, people had to pay rent for their lodging because they could no longer exchange their services for shelter.

These living and working conditions led to the development of new social problems: inadequate housing, crowding, unsanitary conditions, poverty, pollution, and crime. Wages were so low that entire

middle-income countries nations with industrializing economies, particularly in urban areas, and moderate levels of national and personal income.

low-income countries primarily agrarian nations with little industrialization and low levels of national and personal income.

industrialization the process by which societies are transformed from dependence on agriculture and handmade products to an emphasis on manufacturing and related industries.

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