

4. Explain how rigidly defined sex roles affected women's involvement in the experience of Harriet Martineau. (9-10)
5. Trace the development of sociology in the United States and explain the tension between social reform and sociological analysis and how applied sociology addresses this tension. (10-13)
6. Explain the chief differences in the three major theoretical perspectives: symbolic interactionism, functional analysis, and conflict theory. (13-18)
7. Compare micro-level and macro-level analysis and state which level of analysis is utilized by each of the major theoretical perspectives. (18-19)
8. Explain why common sense is an inadequate source of knowledge about human behavior. (19-20)
9. Identify the eight steps in a research model. (20-22)
10. List and describe each of the six research methods. (22-28)
11. Describe the major ethical issues involved in sociological research; demonstrate these issues by using the Brajuha, Scarce, and Humphreys research as examples. (28-30)
12. Discuss how research and theory work together. (30)
13. State the key issues in the debate about the proper role of values in sociology. (30-31)

CHAPTER OUTLINE

I. The Sociological Perspective

- A. This perspective is important because it provides a different way of looking at life; and it contribute to our understanding of why people are the way they are.
- B. Sociology stresses the broader social context of behavior.
 1. At the center is the question of how people are influenced by their society.
 2. Sociologists look at the social location--culture, social class, gender, religion, age, and education--of people.
 3. Sociologists consider external influences--people's experiences--which are internalized and become part of a person's thinking and motivations, because all people have a tendency to take their particular world for granted.

II. The Development of Sociology

- A. Sociology developed in the middle of the 19th Century when social observers began to use scientific methods to test ideas about social life.
 1. Throughout history people have tried to figure out social life, asking questions and forming answers based on superstition or myth.
 2. Sociology emerged as a result of changes in European societies that were taking place at that time: the Industrial Revolution, in which traditional society and culture were transformed; the American and French revolutions, out of which new ideas about the rights of individuals within society were accepted; and the application of scientific methods to find answers for the questions about the natural order and our 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.
- C. Herbert Spencer, another social philosopher, viewed societies as evolutionary, coined the term "the survival of the fittest," and became known for social Darwinism.
- D. Karl Marx, founder of the conflict perspective, believed that class conflict--the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie--was the key to human history.
- E. Emile Durkheim studied the social factors which underline suicide and found that the level of social integration, the degree to which people are tied to their social group, was

a key social factor in suicide. Central to his studies was the idea that human behavior cannot be understood simply in individual terms, but must be understood within the larger social context in which it occurs.

- F. Max 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.

III. Sexism and Early Sociology

- A. In the 1800s women were assigned the roles of wife and mother; few were able to acquire the education required to become sociologists and those who did were ignored.
- B. Harriet Martineau was exceptional; she studied social life in Great Britain and the United States and eventually published *Society in America* two to three decades before Max Weber or Emile Durkheim were even born.

IV. Sociology in North America

- A. Sociology was transplanted to the United States in the late 19th Century, first taking hold at the University of Chicago and Atlanta University.
- B. Since becoming established in the United States, there has been a continuing tension between social reform and sociological analysis.
 - 1. Jane Addams was active in promoting social reform. In 1889 she founded Hull House, a settlement house that served the needs of Chicago's urban poor. Sociologists from nearby University of Chicago were frequent visitors.
 - 2. W. E. B. Du Bois, an African American, created a sociology laboratory at Atlanta University in 1897, conducted extensive research on race relations in the U.S., and helped found the NAACP.
 - 3. During the 1940s, the focus shifted from reform to theory; Talcott Parsons developed abstract models of society to show how the parts of society harmoniously work together.
 - 4. In the 1950s, C. Wright Mills urged sociologists to get back to social reform; he saw imminent danger in the emergence of a power elite within the United States.
- C. Recently there has been attempts to blend sociological knowledge with practical results through the development of applied sociology.
 - 1. The role of applied sociologists is to recommend changes.
 - 2. Clinical sociologists become directly involved in bringing about social change through their work in various social settings.
 - 3. Applied sociology is not the same as social reform because the goal is not to rebuild society but to bring about change in a limited setting.

V. Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology

- A. Theory is defined as a "general statement about how some parts of the world fit together and how they work. There are three major theoretical perspectives in sociology.
- B. Symbolic interactionism views society as composed of symbols that people use to establish meaning, develop their views of the world, and communicate with one another. A symbolic interactionist studying divorce would focus on the changing meanings of marriage, divorce, and family to explain the increase.
- C. Functional analysis sees society as composed of various parts, each with a function, which contributes to society's equilibrium.
 - 1. Robert Merton used the term functions to refer to the beneficial consequences of people's actions, and dysfunction to refer to consequences that undermine a system's equilibrium.

2. In trying to explain divorce, a functionalist would look 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. Divorce is seen as the outcome of the shifting balance of power within the family; as women have gained power and try to address inequalities in the relationship, men resist.

E. The perspectives differ in their level of analysis.

1. Macro-level analysis--"an examination of large-scale patterns of society"--is the focus of analysis for functionalists and conflict theorists.

2. Micro-level analysis--"an examination of small-scale patterns of society"--is the focus for symbolic interactionists.

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

VI. Sociology and Common Sense

A. Common sense cannot be relied on as a source of knowledge because it is highly limited and its insights often are incorrect.

B. To move beyond common sense and understand what is really going on, it is necessary to do sociological research.

VII. A Research Model

A. Selecting a topic is guided by sociological curiosity, interest in a particular topic, research funding from governmental or private source, and pressing social issues.

B. Defining the problem involves specifying exactly what the researcher wants to learn about the topic.

C. Reviewing the literature uncovers existing knowledge about the problem.

D. Formulating a hypothesis involves stating the expected relationship between variables, based on a theory. Hypotheses need operational definitions--precise ways to measure the variables.

E. Choosing a research method is influenced by the research topic.

F. Collecting the data involves concerns over validity, the extent to which operational definitions measure what was intended, and reliability, the extent to which data produce consistent results.

G. Analyzing the results involves the use of a range of techniques, from statistical tests to content analysis, to analyze data. Computers have become powerful tools in data analysis because they reduce large amounts of data to basic patterns in much less time than it used to take.

H. Sharing the results by writing a report and publishing the results makes the findings available for replication.

VIII. Six Research Methods

A. Surveys involve collecting data by having people answer a series of questions.

1. The first step is to determine a population, the target group to be studied, and selecting a sample, individuals from among the target population who are intended to represent the population to be studied.

2. In a random sample everyone in the target population has the same chance of being included in the study. A stratified random sample is a sample of specific subgroups (e.g. freshmen, sophomores, juniors) of the target population (a

- college or university) in which everyone in the subgroup has an equal chance or being included in the study.
- 3. The respondents (people who respond to a survey) must be allowed to express their own ideas so that the findings will not be biased.
- 4. Sociologists must decide between asking closed-ended questions in which the respondent selects one from a list of possible answers and open-ended questions in which respondents answer the question in their own words.
- 5. It is important to establish rapport--a feeling or trust between researchers and subjects.
- B. In participant observation, the researcher participates in a research setting while observing what is happening in that setting.
- C. Secondary analysis is the analysis of data already collected by other researchers.
- D. Documents--written sources--may be obtained from many sources, including books, newspapers, police reports, and records kept by various organizations.
- E. Unobtrusive measures involve observing social behavior of people who do not know they are being studied.
- F. Experiments are especially useful to determine causal relationships.
 - 1. Experiments involve independent (factors that cause a change in something) and dependent variables (factors that are changed).
 - 2. Experiments require an experimental group--the group of subjects exposed to the independent variable--and a control group--the group of subjects not exposed to the independent variable.

IX. Ethics In Sociological Research

- A. Ethics are of fundamental concern to sociologists when it comes to doing research.
- B. Ethical considerations include being open, honest, and truthful, not falsifying results or stealing someone else's work, not harming the subject in the course of conducting the research, protecting the anonymity of the research subjects, and not misrepresenting themselves to the research subjects.
- C. Efforts by Mario Brajuha and Rik Scarce to honor their research ethics reflect the seriousness with which sociologists view ethical considerations. Research by Laud Humphreys raised questions about how researchers represent themselves to subjects.

X. How Research and Theory Work Together

- A. Research without theory is of little value: it becomes a collection of meaningless "facts." Theory that is unconnected to research is abstract and empty, unlikely to represent the way life really is.
- B. Sociologists combine research and theory in different ways. Theory is used to interpret data (i.e. functionalism, symbolic interaction and conflict theory provide frameworks for interpreting research findings) and it generates research. Research helps to generate theory.

XI. The Dilemma of Values in Social 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.
 - 2. Replication--repeating a study to see if the same results are round--is one means to avoid the distortions that values can cause.
- B. The proper purposes and uses of sociology are argued among sociologists.

1. Some lean towards basic sociological research that has no goal beyond understanding social life and testing social theory.
2. Others feel that the knowledge should be used to reform society.

GLOSSARY OF DIFFICULT-TO-UNDERSTAND WORDS

- alleviate*: make less painful
- armchair philosophy*: to speculate about the nature things without ever doing scientific research
- banded about*: passed along without being careful
- bludgeoned*: to hit with heavy impact
- Calvinism*: one of the early Protestant religious groups whose followers believed that their fate after death was determined before they were even born
- collapsed*: broken down, so they no longer are separate
- common sense*: things everyone should realize
- despicable*: deserving of contempt
- disheveled*: untidy, rumpled
- dissertation*: a lengthy paper written in connection with obtaining a doctoral degree
- distortion*: being twisted out of shape
- doctoral*: of or relating to work towards a doctorate degree
- eerily*: weirdly, disturbingly
- encompasses*: contains within it
- falsification*: changing something to make it appear different
- hallmark*: a feature or trait that distinguishes something from everything else
- inalienable rights*: rights that may not be taken or traded away
- inherent*: naturally existing
- internalized*: make part of your own thinking
- laudable*: worthy of praise
- load the dice*: unfairly influence the outcome
- misguided do-gooders*: people who get in the way while thinking they are helping
- objectivity*: expressing facts without consideration of personal feelings or prejudices
- overwhelmingly*: many more people do than do not
- pathological*: diseased
- preconceived*: formed in advance
- rigorous*: strict, precise
- Styrofoam cup*: a rigid, lightweight cup
- subpoenaed*: required to be produced in connection with legal proceedings
- swishing*: moving through a liquid with a light noise
- treadmill*: a revolving device on which you walk without getting anywhere
- unobtrusive*: not getting in people's way
- urbanization*: the movement from rural areas into cities
- vested interest*: a situation in which a person (or organization) has a strong personal commitment to the existing arrangements