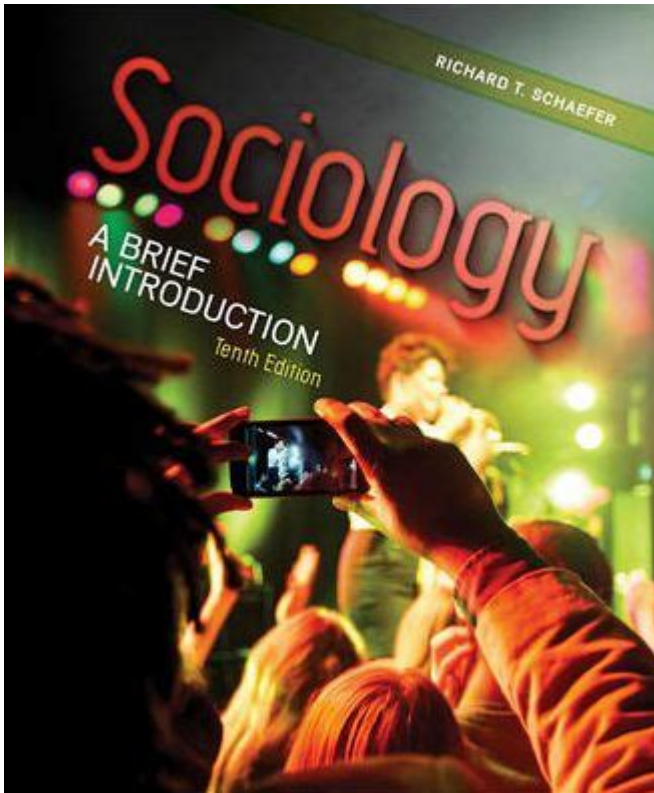


# Sociology A Brief Introduction



## **Sociology: A Brief Introduction**

Have you ever stopped to consider the forces shaping your life, beyond your individual choices? Have you wondered why societies function the way they do, why inequalities exist, or how social change occurs? If so, then you're already engaging with the fundamental questions of sociology. This post provides a brief introduction to sociology, exploring its core concepts, key thinkers, and its relevance in understanding the world around us. We'll delve into its history, methodologies, and the diverse areas of study within this fascinating field.

## **What is Sociology?**

Sociology is the scientific study of society, social institutions, and social relationships. It examines how individuals interact within groups, how these interactions create social structures, and how these structures, in turn, influence individual behavior. Unlike psychology, which focuses on the individual mind, sociology looks at the broader social context and its impact on human actions and experiences. It aims to understand the patterns and processes that shape our social world.

# The History of Sociological Thought

The roots of sociology can be traced back to the 18th and 19th centuries, a period of rapid social change fueled by industrialization, urbanization, and the rise of scientific thought. Early sociologists like Auguste Comte, considered the "father of sociology," sought to apply scientific methods to understanding society, aiming to improve social conditions. Karl Marx analyzed the effects of capitalism on social class and inequality, while Emile Durkheim studied social solidarity and the functions of social institutions. Max Weber focused on the role of ideas, values, and individual motivations in shaping social action. These founding fathers laid the groundwork for the diverse branches of sociological inquiry we see today.

## #### Key Sociological Thinkers and Their Contributions:

Auguste Comte (1798-1857): Positivism - the belief that social phenomena can be studied scientifically.

Karl Marx (1818-1883): Conflict theory - emphasizing social inequality and class struggle.

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917): Functionalism - examining the functions of social institutions and their contribution to social stability.

Max Weber (1864-1920): Interpretive sociology - focusing on understanding the subjective meanings individuals attach to their actions.

## Major Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology

Several theoretical perspectives guide sociological research and interpretation. These aren't mutually exclusive, and often sociologists draw on multiple perspectives to gain a more comprehensive understanding.

Functionalism: Views society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote stability and solidarity. It focuses on social functions and the maintenance of social order.

Conflict Theory: Emphasizes social inequalities and power struggles between different groups in society. It highlights how social structures perpetuate inequality.

Symbolic Interactionism: Focuses on micro-level interactions and the meanings individuals assign to symbols and social interactions. It emphasizes how individuals create and maintain social reality through their interactions.

Feminist Theory: Examines gender inequality and the social construction of gender. It critiques patriarchal structures and advocates for social justice.

Postmodernism: Questions grand narratives and universal truths, emphasizing the diversity of perspectives and experiences.

## Research Methods in Sociology

Sociologists employ a variety of research methods to gather and analyze data. These include:

Quantitative methods: Involve numerical data analysis, such as surveys and statistical analysis.

Qualitative methods: Involve in-depth analysis of non-numerical data, such as interviews, ethnography (participant observation), and case studies.

## **Branches of Sociology**

Sociology is a broad field encompassing many specialized areas of study, including:

Social stratification: The study of social inequality and class systems.

Family sociology: The study of family structures and dynamics.

Criminology: The study of crime and criminal behavior.

Political sociology: The study of power, politics, and social movements.

Medical sociology: The study of health, illness, and healthcare systems.

Environmental sociology: The study of the relationship between society and the environment.

Urban sociology: The study of cities and urban life.

## **The Relevance of Sociology**

Understanding sociology is crucial for navigating the complexities of the modern world. It helps us to:

Critically analyze social issues: Such as poverty, inequality, discrimination, and social change.

Understand social problems: And develop effective solutions.

Become more informed citizens: By understanding the social forces that shape our lives and communities.

Develop critical thinking skills: To analyze social phenomena objectively and systematically.

## **Conclusion**

Sociology offers a powerful framework for understanding the human experience within its social context. By examining social structures, interactions, and processes, it provides valuable insights into the forces that shape our individual lives and the broader social world. This brief introduction has merely scratched the surface of this rich and complex field, but hopefully, it has sparked your interest to delve deeper into the fascinating world of sociological inquiry.

# FAQs

1. What is the difference between sociology and psychology? Sociology focuses on social structures and group behavior, while psychology focuses on individual behavior and mental processes.
2. Is sociology a science? Yes, sociology is a social science that uses scientific methods to study social phenomena.
3. What are some career paths for sociology graduates? Sociology graduates can pursue careers in research, social work, government, non-profit organizations, market research, and many other fields.
4. How can I learn more about sociology? You can take introductory sociology courses at a university or college, read sociological literature, and engage with online resources.
5. Is sociology relevant to my everyday life? Absolutely! Sociology helps you understand the social forces shaping your experiences, choices, and opportunities. It enhances your ability to critically analyze social issues and contribute to positive social change.

**sociology a brief introduction: LooseLeaf for Sociology: A Brief Introduction** Richard T. Schaefer, 2016-10-03 Sociology: A Brief Introduction invites students to take sociology with them in their daily lives. This successful, student-friendly program includes strong coverage of race, ethnicity, and globalization. The approachable material encourages students to develop their sociological imaginations and start to think like a sociologist. Paired with Connect, a personal and adaptive learning experience, students learn to apply sociology's three theoretical frameworks to the world around them.

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**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology** Steve Bruce, 2018-09-20 Drawing on studies of social class, crime and deviance, education, work in bureaucracies and changes in religious and political organizations, this Very Short Introduction explores the tension between the individual's place in society and society's role in shaping the individual, and demonstrates the value of sociology for understanding the modern world. In this new edition Steve Bruce discusses the continuing arguments for social egalitarianism, considering issues such as gay marriage, women in combat roles, and the 2010 Equality Act to debunk contemporary arguments against parity. As gender divisions are increasingly questioned he looks ahead to the likely consequences of this for society. Delving into the theory of sociology, Bruce also argues that the habit of dividing sociology into apparently competing 'sects' is misleading, and shows how a new understanding of the disciplinary background of many of the most famous theorists, which shows that much social theory is actually philosophy or literary theory, will prove useful to today's sociologists. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology** Steven E. Barkan,

**sociology a brief introduction: Theoretical Sociology** Jonathan H. Turner, 2013-07-11 What can sociological theory tell us about the basic forces that shape our world? With clarity and authority, Theoretical Sociology: A Concise Introduction to Twelve Sociological Theories, by leading

theorist Jonathan H. Turner, seeks to answer this question through a brief, yet in-depth examination of twelve major sociological theories. Readers are given an opportunity to explore the foundational premise of each theory and key elements that make it distinctive. The book draws on biographical background, analysis of important works, historical influences, and other critical insights to help readers make the important connections between these monumental sociological theories and the social world in which we live. This concise resource is a perfect complement to any course that seeks to examine both classic and contemporary sociological theory.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology** Richard T. Schaefer, 2006-10 Like its predecessors, the seventh edition of this text reflects Rick Schaefer's mission to bring readers a comprehensive, up-to-date presentation that teaches them how to think critically about society and their own lives from a wide range of classical and contemporary perspectives. Combining balanced coverage of theory with current research findings, distinctive social policy sections, examples of interest to students, and abundant learning aids and exercises, this text will help students develop a sociological imagination. An optional package combines Schaefer, Sociology, Seventh Edition and Reel Society Interactive Movie 2.0 CD-ROM at nominal extra cost. The introductory sociology class provides the ideal laboratory in which to study our own society and those of our global neighbors. The distinctive emphasis on social policy found in this text shows students how to use the sociological imagination in examining such public policy issues as sexual harassment, the AIDS crisis, welfare reform, the death penalty, and the offshoring of service jobs. Richard T. Schaefer

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology** Richard T. Schaefer, Bonnie Haaland, 2014-02

**sociology a brief introduction: Introduction to Sociology** Frank van Tubergen, 2020-02-25 Comprehensive and engaging, this textbook introduces students not only to foundational sociological work, but also to insights from contemporary sociological theory and research. This combined approach ensures that students become familiar with the core of sociology: key concepts, theories, perspectives, methods, and findings. Students will acquire the ability to think like a sociologist, investigate and understand complex social phenomena. This text presents a complete sociological toolkit, guiding students in the art of asking good sociological questions, devising a sophisticated theory and developing methodologies to observe social phenomena. The chapters of this book build cumulatively to equip students with the tools to quickly understand any new sociological topic or contemporary social problem. The textbook also applies the sociological toolkit to selected key sociological issues, showing how specific sociological topics can be easily investigated and understood using this approach. Taking a global and comparative perspective, the book covers a rich diversity of sociological topics and social problems, such as crime, immigration, race and ethnicity, media, education, family, organizations, gender, poverty, modernization and religion. The book presents a range of helpful pedagogical features throughout, such as: Chapter overview and learning goals summaries at the start of every chapter; Thinking like a sociologist boxes, encouraging students to reflect critically on learning points; Principle boxes, summarizing key sociological principles; Theory schema boxes, presenting sociological theories in a clear, understandable manner; Stylized facts highlighting key empirical findings and patterns; Key concepts and summary sections at the end of every chapter; and Companion website providing additional material for every chapter for both instructors and students, including PowerPoint lecture notes, discussion questions and answers, multiple-choice questions, further reading and a full glossary of terms. This clear and accessible text is essential reading for students taking introductory courses in sociology. It will also be useful for undergraduate and graduate courses in other social science disciplines, such as psychology, economics, human geography, demography, communication studies, education sciences, political science and criminology.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology, a Brief But Critical Introduction** Anthony Giddens, 1982

**sociology a brief introduction: Terrible Magnificent Sociology** Wade, Lisa, 2021-12-15 Using engaging stories and a diverse cast of characters, Lisa Wade memorably delivers what C. Wright Mills described as both the terrible and the magnificent lessons of sociology. With chapters

that build upon one another, *Terrible Magnificent Sociology* represents a new kind of introduction to sociology. Recognizing the many statuses students carry, Wade goes beyond race, class, and gender, considering inequalities of all kinds—and their intersections. She also highlights the remarkable diversity of sociology, not only of its methods and approaches but also of the scholars themselves, emphasizing the contributions of women, immigrants, and people of color. The book ends with an inspiring call to action, urging students to use their sociological imaginations to improve the world in which they live.

**sociology a brief introduction:** *An Introduction to Sociology* Karim Murji, Sarah Neal, John Solomos, 2021-11-03 *An Introduction to Sociology* is your essential guide to understanding the social forces that shape our lives and the world around us. This innovative textbook introduces you to the key theories, themes, and concepts in the discipline of sociology and helps you to develop as a sociologist by providing comprehensive coverage of all the main areas of study. Presenting you with the history, current debates and recent research developments for each topic, this book covers everything from classical sociologies and traditional subjects such as class, families, and religion, through to more progressive areas like digital society, social media, migration, and the interconnectedness of modern global society. The book's extensive coverage means it can be used throughout your studies, from first year to final year. Key features: Each chapter is written by an internationally renowned expert who uses specialist insight and the latest research to provide a reliable and up-to-date overview. Includes a selection of unique learning features such as "Hear from the Expert" boxes and "Key Cases" from around the world, as well as reflective activities and revision questions that will enhance your knowledge. Features a section titled "What is sociology useful for?" which includes chapters on the public value of sociology and the role of sociology in contemporary society. The book is supported by a wide-ranging collection of online teaching and learning resources including exclusive video content from SAGE Video, links to SAGE Journal Articles, sample essay questions, and a selection of multiple-choice questions. This definitive text is perfect for first-year sociology undergraduates and anyone studying sociology at university or college level.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology** Daniel Nehring, Ken Plummer, 2014-04-30 This groundbreaking new introduction to sociology is an innovative hybrid textbook and reader. Combining seminal scholarly works, contextual narrative and in-text didactic materials, it presents a rich, layered and comprehensive introduction to the discipline. Its unique approach will help inspire a creative, critical, and analytically sophisticated sociological imagination, making sense of society and the many small and large problems it poses.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology: A Brief Introduction** Richard T. Schaefer, 2010-09-23 The ninth edition of Richard T. Schaefer's *Sociology: A Brief Introduction* provides students with a comprehensive, up-to-date presentation of sociology. Students learn to think critically about society and their own lives from a wide range of classical and contemporary perspectives. Combining balanced coverage of theory with current research findings, examples that students can relate to, and abundant learning aids and exercises, the new edition continues to encourage the development of sociological imagination. New to the edition is the inclusion of an adaptive diagnostic tool and interactivities to help students master key concepts.

**sociology a brief introduction: Introductory Sociology** Tony Bilton, 1996 The bravest and most successful attempt yet to bring what is happening in academic sociology to the A-level market.' - Tony Breslin, Times Educational Supplement

**sociology a brief introduction: Introduction to the Science of Sociology** Robert Ezra Park, Ernest Watson Burgess, 1924

**sociology a brief introduction: Revealing Our Social World** Mark Plume, 2016-08-08 Based on over twenty years of classroom experience, *Revealing Our Social World: An Introduction to Sociology* is written with the teaching sociologist in mind. Humorous, accessible, and informal, the book introduces non-major students to the basic theories, concepts, and terms of sociology. *Revealing Our Social World: A Brief Introduction to Sociology* is organized into four sections, the

first of which discusses the basics of the sociological perspective and imagination, along with the development of sociology as a discipline. In the second section the material examines how people fit into their social landscapes. This section features topics such as culture, socialization, groups, social institutions, and deviance. The third section addresses various forms of inequality, while the fourth examines the structure of the daily grind as it applies to marriage and family, religion, education, politics, and the economy. Each chapter lays out the basic elements of the topic using vivid cross-cultural examples and includes suggested readings, practical activities, and a section titled There's an App for That. *Revealing Our Social World: A Brief Introduction to Sociology* is a fresh and engaging text for introductory sociology courses at the undergraduate level. Mark Plume earned his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Southern California. Dr. Plume has been teaching sociology for more than twenty years and is currently a professor at Reynolds Community College, where he teaches traditional and on-line courses in introductory sociology, marriage and family, and cultural and physical anthropology. Dr. Plume also teaches sex and gender and research methods at Virginia Commonwealth University. His research interests include alcoholic families, gender, and social class. His most recent work examines millennials and their belief in the afterlife. He is a member of the American Sociological Association and the Gerontological Society of America. Dr. Plume, his wife, and their miniature schnauzer make their home in central Virginia.

**sociology a brief introduction: Study Guide for Sociology** Richard Schaefer, 2011-01  
*ELEMENTARY STATISTICS: A STEP BY STEP APPROACH* is for general beginning statistics courses with a basic algebra prerequisite. The book is non-theoretical, explaining concepts intuitively and teaching problem solving through worked examples and step-by-step instructions. This edition places more emphasis on conceptual understanding and understanding results.

**sociology a brief introduction: A Sociology of Health** David Wainwright, 2008-01-18 `A Sociology of Health charts a way forward for a medical sociology that can make a positive contribution to medical practice and health policy' - Dr Michael Fitzpatrick, East London GP and author of *The Tyranny of Health* `This is a very lively book that will stimulate good debate amongst students undertaking sociology of health courses in higher education' - Mathew Jones, Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Policy, University of the West of England A Sociology of Health offers an authoritative and up-to-date introduction to the key issues, perspectives and debates within the field of medical sociology. The book will aid readers' understanding of how sociological approaches are crucial to understanding the impact that health and illness have on the behaviour, attitudes, beliefs, and practices, of an increasingly health-aware population. The book is topical and unique in its approach, combining commentary and analysis of classic debates in medical sociology with contemporary issues in health care policy and practice. The content is wide-ranging, including chapters on: health scares, therapy culture, new dimensions of international health, changes in health care organisation and the feminization of health. Features such as case studies, questions for debate, and further reading sections are used throughout to promote critical reflection and further debate. A Sociology of Health offers readers a fresh approach to the subject, and will be essential reading for all undergraduate students on medical sociology and sociology of health and illness courses, as well as postgraduate students in related health and social care disciplines. David Wainwright is a Senior Lecturer in the School for Health, University of Bath.

**sociology a brief introduction: This Is Sociology** Dan Woodman, Steven Threadgold, 2021-09-20 An accessible and engaging introduction to sociology to help you understand and make our complex social worlds better.

**sociology a brief introduction: My Sociology** Rosalind Gottfried, 2018-12-17 My Sociology reconceptualizes intro sociology for the changing demographics in today's higher education environment. Concise and student-focused, My Sociology captures students' attention with engaging stories and a focus on non-dominant populations. Rather than introducing students to theory and history at the beginning of the text, the book integrates the necessary information throughout to keep students engaged.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology: A Brief Introduction Loose Leaf** Richard T.

Schaefer, 2014-08-19 Sociology: A Brief Introduction invites students to take sociology with them in their daily lives. This successful franchise includes strong coverage of race, ethnicity, and globalization. Paired with a personal and adaptive learning experience, students learn to apply sociology's three theoretical frameworks to the world around them. Connect is the only integrated learning system that empowers students by continuously adapting to deliver precisely what they need, when they need it, and how they need it, so that your class time is more engaging and effective.

**sociology a brief introduction: A Dictionary of Sociology** John Scott, 2014-09-11 A consistent best-seller, the wide-ranging and authoritative Dictionary of Sociology was first published in 1994 and contains more than 2,500 entries on the terminology, methods, concepts, and thinkers in the field, as well as from the related fields of psychology, economics, anthropology, philosophy, and political science. For this fourth edition, Professor John Scott has conducted a thorough review of all entries to ensure that they are concise, focused, and up to date. Revisions reflect current intellectual debates and social conditions, particularly in relation to global and multi-cultural issues. New entries cover relevant contemporary concepts, such as climate change, social media, terrorism, and intersectionality, as well as key living sociologists. This Dictionary is both an invaluable introduction to sociology for beginners, and an essential source of reference for more advanced students and teachers.

**sociology a brief introduction: Introducing Sociology** John Nagle, 2016-11-03 Sociology is interested in the ways people shape the society they live in, and the ways society shapes them. Simply, it is the study of what modern society is and how it functions. In the series' inimitable style, Introducing Sociology traces the origins of sociology from industrialization, revolution and the Enlightenment through to globalization, neoliberalism and the fear of nationalism - introducing you to key thinkers, movements and concepts along the way. You will develop insight into the world around you, as you engage your 'sociological imagination' and explore studies of the city, theories of power and knowledge, concepts of national, racial and sexual identity, and much more.

**sociology a brief introduction: Understanding the Sociology of Health** Anne-Marie Barry, Chris Yuill, 2016-09-19 Understanding the Sociology of Health continues to offer an easy to read introduction to sociological theories essential to understanding the current health climate. Up-to-date with key policy and research, and including case studies and exercises to critically engage the reader, this book shows how sociology can answer complex questions about health and illness, such as why health inequalities exist. To better help with your studies this book contains: · a global perspective with international examples; · a new chapter on health technologies; · online access to videos of the author discussing key topics as well as recommended further readings; · a glossary, chapter summaries and reflective questions to help you engage with the subject. Though aimed primarily at students on health and social care courses and professions allied to medicine, this textbook provides valuable insights for anyone interested in the social aspects of health.

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**sociology a brief introduction: Doing Sociology** Lee Harvey, Morag MacDonald, 1993-11-11 Doing Sociology is a student-centred text that encourages learning by doing. Combining sociological theory with research methods and social philosophy in an accessible way, it provides an invaluable resource for A-level, access and first-year degree students and teachers.

**sociology a brief introduction: Introducing Sociology** Paul H Ciccarelli, 2020-01-21 Introducing Sociology makes the learning of the foundations of sociology fun and easy in a quick-to-read book. Through this book, you will gain an understanding of the dynamic forces that shape personalities and socialize people into the larger culture within which we live. With a modern take, you'll not only learn about how traditional institutions such as the family and schools shape society but also come away informed about how mass media, including social media networks like Facebook and YouTube, are socializing our children and providing new means of interpersonal mass communication never seen before. Learn the foundational principles that lie behind sociology including: - The history of sociology and key figures in its early development.- The key role of the

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**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology** Rosemary L. Hopcroft, 2016-01-08 In an era of human genome research, environmental challenges, new reproductive technologies, and more, students can benefit from an introductory sociology text that is a biologically informed. This innovative text integrates mainstream sociological research in all areas of sociology with a scientifically-informed model of an evolved, biological human actor. This text allows students to better understand their emotional, social, and institutional worlds. It also illustrates how biological understanding naturally enhances the sociological approach. This grounding of sociology in a biosocial conception of the individual actor is coupled with a comparative approach, as human biology is universal and often reveals itself as variations on themes across human cultures. Tables, Figures, Photos, and the author's concise and remarkably lively style make this a truly enjoyable book to read and teach.

**sociology a brief introduction: An Introduction to Sociology** Bryan S. R. Green, Edward A. Johns, 2013-10-22 An Introduction to Sociology presents the theoretical approaches, the methods of inquiry, and the concepts with which sociologists attempt to order the intricate phenomena of social interaction. This book provides an illustration of particular investigations that may provide some insights into substantive features of society and social behavior. Organized into six chapters, this book starts with an overview of scientific proposition, which is the statement of a relationship between specified properties of events and objects. This text then explains the fundamental concepts that appear in the empirical and theoretical writings of sociologists. Other chapters present a discussion of what sociologists actually study, which includes the substantive areas of investigation and the aims of the investigation. This book discusses as well the institutionalized areas of society, including the family, the economy, and the polity. The final chapter deals with the theories of the middle-range. This book is a valuable resource for sociologists.

**sociology a brief introduction: The Sociology of Gender** Laura Kramer, 2011 An ideal essentials text for introductory courses, *The Sociology of Gender*, Third Edition, provides a concise - yet also in-depth - overview of basic sociological concepts and perspectives on gender. Focusing primarily on the contemporary United States, author Laura Kramer integrates history, theory, and research in order to examine the current gender system and the ways in which macro-, middle-, and micro-level societal forces have changed that system over time. Featuring an exceptionally accessible and engaging writing style, *The Sociology of Gender* explores how race, ethnicity, and social class affect the meaning of gender. A chapter on culture provides a close look at traditionally dominant versions of femininities and masculinities and how they are communicated through language, mass media, and religion. The concepts of individual agency and resistance, introduced in the first chapter, resurface throughout in discussions of culture and socialization.

**sociology a brief introduction: An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion** Professor Pål Repstad, Assoc Prof Inger Furseth, 2013-05-28 An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion provides an overview of sociological theories of contemporary religious life. Some chapters are organized according to topic. Others offer brief presentations of classical and contemporary sociologists from Karl Marx to Zygmunt Bauman and their perspectives on social life, including religion. Throughout the book, illustrations and examples are taken from several religious traditions.

**sociology a brief introduction: Sociology in America** Craig Calhoun, 2008-09-15 Though the word "sociology" was coined in Europe, the field of sociology grew most dramatically in America. Despite that disproportionate influence, American sociology has never been the subject of an

extended historical examination. To remedy that situation—and to celebrate the centennial of the American Sociological Association—Craig Calhoun assembled a team of leading sociologists to produce *Sociology in America*. Rather than a story of great sociologists or departments, *Sociology in America* is a true history of an often disparate field—and a deeply considered look at the ways sociology developed intellectually and institutionally. It explores the growth of American sociology as it addressed changes and challenges throughout the twentieth century, covering topics ranging from the discipline's intellectual roots to understandings (and misunderstandings) of race and gender to the impact of the Depression and the 1960s. *Sociology in America* will stand as the definitive treatment of the contribution of twentieth-century American sociology and will be required reading for all sociologists. Contributors: Andrew Abbott, Daniel Breslau, Craig Calhoun, Charles Camic, Miguel A. Centeno, Patricia Hill Collins, Marjorie L. DeVault, Myra Marx Ferree, Neil Gross, Lorine A. Hughes, Michael D. Kennedy, Shamus Khan, Barbara Laslett, Patricia Lengermann, Doug McAdam, Shauna A. Morimoto, Aldon Morris, Gillian Niebrugge, Alton Phillips, James F. Short Jr., Alan Sica, James T. Sparrow, George Steinmetz, Stephen Turner, Jonathan VanAntwerpen, Immanuel Wallerstein, Pamela Barnhouse Walters, Howard Winant

**sociology a brief introduction: What is Digital Sociology?** Neil Selwyn, 2019-07-12 The rise of digital technology is transforming the world in which we live. Our digitalized societies demand new ways of thinking about the social, and this short book introduces readers to an approach that can deliver this: digital sociology. Neil Selwyn examines the concepts, tools and practices that sociologists are developing to analyze the intersections of the social and the digital. Blending theory and empirical examples, the five chapters highlight areas of inquiry where digital approaches are taking hold and shaping the discipline of sociology today. The book explores key topics such as digital race and digital labor, as well as the fast-changing nature of digital research methods and diversifying forms of digital scholarship. Designed for use in advanced undergraduate and graduate courses, this timely introduction will be an invaluable resource for all sociologists seeking to focus their craft and thinking toward the social complexities of the digital age.

**sociology a brief introduction: Classical Sociological Theory** Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, Indermohan Virk, 2012-01-17 This comprehensive collection of classical sociological theory is a definitive guide to the roots of sociology from its undisciplined beginnings to its current influence on contemporary sociological debate. Explores influential works of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Mead, Simmel, Freud, Du Bois, Adorno, Marcuse, Parsons, and Merton Editorial introductions lend historical and intellectual perspective to the substantial readings Includes a new section with new readings on the immediate pre-history of sociological theory, including the Enlightenment and de Tocqueville Individual reading selections are updated throughout

**sociology a brief introduction: Discovering Sociology** Mark McCormack, Eric Anderson, Kimberly Jamie, Matthew David, 2021-02-14 This second edition of a major textbook uses lively prose and a series of carefully-crafted pedagogical features to both introduce sociology as a discipline and to help students realize how deeply sociological issues impact on their own lives. Over the book's 12 chapters, students discover what sociology is, alongside its historical development and emergent new concerns. They will be led through the theories that underpin the discipline and familiarized with what it takes to undertake good sociological research. Ultimately students will be led and inspired to develop their own sociological imagination - learning to question their own assumptions about the society, the culture and the world around them today. Historically, the majority of introductory sociology textbooks have run to many hundreds of pages, discouraging students from further reading. By contrast, *Discovering Sociology* has been carefully designed and developed as a true introduction, covering the key ideas and topics that first year undergraduate students need to engage with without sacrificing intellectual rigour. New to this Edition: - Two new chapters adding coverage on crime, deviance and political sociology - Updated examples, Vox Pops and case studies keep this new edition feeling fresh and contemporary and ensure diverse coverage, including from beyond Western sociology - Thoughtfully updated and refreshed layout and visual

features. Accompanying online resources for this title can be found at [bloombsburyonlineresources.com/discovering-sociology-2e](https://bloombsburyonlineresources.com/discovering-sociology-2e). These resources are designed to support teaching and learning when using this textbook and are available at no extra cost.

**sociology a brief introduction: An Introduction to Sociology** Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, 2000-04-01

**sociology a brief introduction: Introduction to Sociology** Sebahattin Ziyanak, 2019-07-18  
Introduction to Sociology provides students with a carefully curated selection of readings that demonstrate how everyday human interactions construct our global social world. The collection offers students an array of unique perspectives on foundational sociological concepts and an engaging look into real-world issues and the global impacts of social life. The text is divided into 13 chapters. The opening chapter provides students with a general introduction to sociology and describes three basic types of sociological traditions. Additional chapters introduce readers to sociological research methods, concepts related to culture, the idea of socialization, and perceptions of deviance and crime. They explore readings on social stratification, race as a social construct, contemporary constructions of gender and sexuality, and the role and function of marriage and family in modern times. Education, politics, globalization, population, and urbanization are discussed within the context of sociology. The book closes with a chapter dedicated to social change and social movements. Written to help students understand how sociological theories can support their understanding of our social world, Introduction to Sociology is an ideal resource for foundational courses in discipline. Sebahattin Ziyanak is an assistant professor of sociology in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. His research has been published in European Review of Applied Sociology, International Journal of Innovation and Research in Educational Sciences, and The Qualitative Report, and he has contributed books, book chapters and articles to a variety of publications. Outside of academia, he serves as the president of the Peace Academy of West Texas and a board member for Odessa Links, an organization that provides a continuum of care services to homeless individuals.

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