



RHODES UNIVERSITY

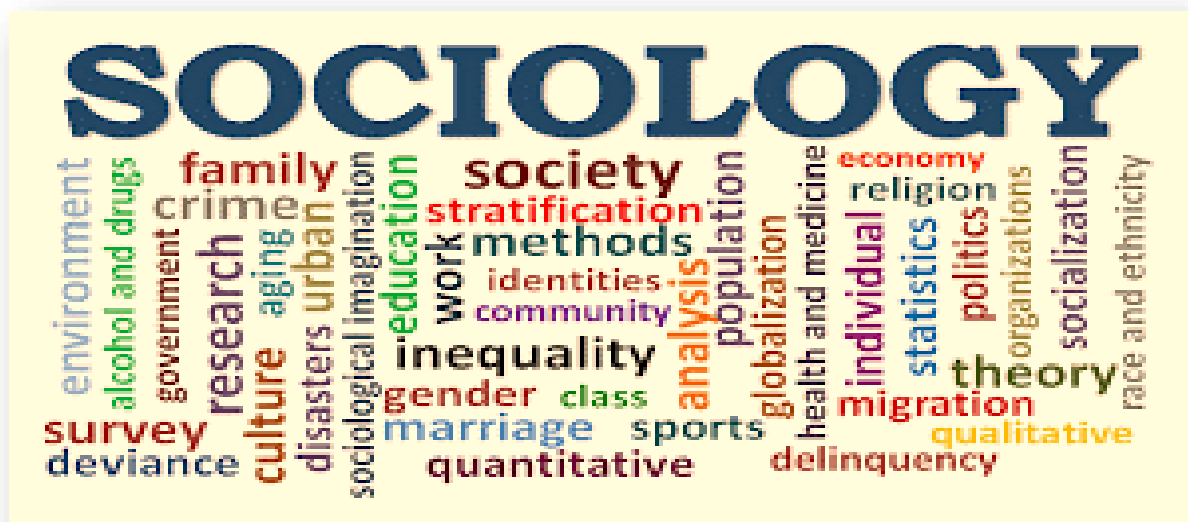
Grahamstown • 6140 • South Africa

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY I

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

TERM 1: 2020



LECTURER:

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1. INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why you hold the beliefs you have and why you live the way you do? And why people who are of a different class, race, gender, culture, and sub-culture have different lifestyles and beliefs? Are they born like that, inbred, genetically predisposed to think and act in a weird way, different to you? The reality is that we are deeply embedded in social structures such as religion, gender, age and class that shape us, even our most personal and private actions. Understanding how these social structures and institutions impact on how we interact with each other and how we behave and think, is at the heart of sociology, which is a scientific study of social structure (*patterns of social relationships*). Sociology as a discipline equips us with ways of thinking about the world that challenges our commonly-accepted beliefs and assumptions. It helps us realise that “things are not what they seem” (Berger, 1963:21). It does this by employing what the sociologist C. Wright Mills conceptualised as “the sociological imagination”, which enables people to understand what is going on in the world and how that relates to and affects their own lives.

One of the things sociology teaches us is not to judge other people from the viewpoint of our own culture, class, gender, or race. To do so, known as *ethnocentricity*, is the source of much misunderstanding and conflict in the world. The sociological imagination allows us to understand how social structures facilitate and reinforce inequality and exploitation; understanding how this works and impacts on us personally, is the first step in being able to liberate ourselves and change the world.

Sociology as a study of society also has concepts and theories used as lenses to understand the social world. Students will be introduced to these concepts and sociological theories. Students will also have an opportunity to learn how sociological knowledge is produced.

Welcome to Sociology and the sociological imagination.

2. COURSE PREPARATION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

2.1 How to Prepare for this Course

A lecture structure is provided below. Each lecture or set of lectures has a title and accompanying readings. You are advised to read the prescribed readings prior to each lecture to enable an understanding of what will be discussed in lectures. It is useful to note questions you could ask the lecturer, or alternatively, to look out for answers during the lecture. After each lecture you might want to go over the reading to clarify any remaining areas of confusion. In addition to prescribed readings, you are strongly encouraged to read “introduction to sociology” books in the library and academic electronic resources.

Not only is reading prior to a lecture an important means of preparation, it also allows you to focus on what the lecturer is saying, and less on taking notes. It will also enable you to only jot down important points, such as examples of key concepts. You are encouraged to participate in the lecture as much as possible – not only through asking questions, but by critically thinking about what is being said and jotting down areas which interest or confuse you. You can then do further reading around these sections of the work. Lectures are based on a wide variety of readings, so no single reading is able to capture a lecture in its entirety. That is why you are given a variety of readings for each topic.

For the test, tutorials and examination, you are expected to know what has been covered in lectures, but you also need to provide evidence of *reading* the relevant sociological material.

You will be rewarded for evidence of reading, especially independent reading of material not recommended in the course outline. Just make sure that the readings you consult are from a reliable sociological source such as a published book, a sociology department website or a refereed journal article (see Handout 1 for more details).

2.2 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Understand the scientific basis of sociology, and how sociological knowledge is produced (social research);
- Distinguish between common-sense understandings of the social world and sociological explanations;
- Have a critical understanding of the relationship between the individual and society (how we are affected by our social world);
- Understand and apply key sociological concepts in your tutorial assignments, test and exam questions;
- Understand key sociological theories and how they are used to understand society.

3. COURSE STRUCTURE AND OVERVIEW

The course has three components:

- **Lectures and Tutorials**
 - four lectures per week (Mon-Thurs)
 - three tutorials (weeks 2, 3 and 5)
- **Assessment**

You will be assessed on what you are taught. The assessment methods used for this course will be a test, tutorial assignments and an examination. Please read **Department of Sociology Handout 1 (2020)** for the assessment criteria for tests, assignments and examinations. Prior to undertaking any assessment, the lecturer will go through the criteria with you during lectures, so that you can understand how your work will be assessed.

A test will be written on **6th March** (Friday) at **7.00pm** in **Barratt Lecture Theatres 1 and 2**. The test mark counts 100% of the term mark for the course.

If you miss the test without a Leave of Absence (LOA) certificate you will put your Duly Performed (DP) certificate in jeopardy. LOA forms are available in the department (see Secretary at the front desk), and must be applied for with relevant supporting documentation (doctor's certificate, letter from warden, letter from psychologist, etc.). You must find out if it has been granted, as the granting of a LOA by the Head of Department is not automatic (see **Handout 1** for details).

- **Examination**
 - You will write your examination in June. This exam will count for 70% of the course year mark, and the test counts 30%.

4. SECTION A: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

The course is divided into two sections that are crucial to an understanding of what sociology is, and what it entails. Under each section below, there is a summary explaining what will be covered.

4.1 Introduction and Summary

- In this section, you will be introduced to sociology as a study of society. We will examine the concepts of socialisation, social norms and values, and this will include a discussion on the agents of socialisation and their role in the socialisation process.
- We will also discuss social structures and institutions in society. This will focus on understanding the relationship between individuals, social status, social roles and social institutions.
- Another concept that will be explored is the 'sociological imagination', which explains personal matters in relation to what is happening in the broader society.
- The final topic in this section is an introduction to social research – how sociological knowledge is produced.

4.2 Section A: Lecture Outline

	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (10 – 13 Feb 2020)	Introduction to the course	No reading
	Socialisation (primary & secondary); Social norms & values; and roles	Giddens, A. (2006). <i>Sociology</i> (fifth edition). Cambridge: Polity. [Chapter 6]
	Agents of Socialisation (Family, Friends, Peers, Schools, Religion, Government, Mass Media)	Haralambos. M. & Holborn, M. (2008). <i>Sociology: Themes and perspectives</i> (seventh edition). London: Collins. [Chapter 11]
	Socialisation (identity & culture)	Ferrante, J. (2014). <i>Seeing sociology: An introduction</i> (second edition). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.
Week 2 (17-20 Feb 2020)	Different Perspectives on Socialisation (Symbolic Interactionism)	Fulcher, J. & Scott, J. (2007). <i>Sociology</i> (third edition). New York: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 4]
	Different Perspective on Socialisation (Feminism)	Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). <i>Sociology: A South African introduction</i> . Cape Town: Juta & Company. [Chapter 6]

<p>Week 2 (continued)</p>	<p>Introduction to Social Structures & Institutions</p>	<p><i>Bruce, S. (2000). Sociology: A very short introduction: New York: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 2]</i></p> <p><i>Fulcher, J. & Scott, J. (2007). Sociology (third edition). New York: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 4]</i></p> <p><i>Ritzer, G. (ed) (2012). The Wiley-Blackwell companion to sociology. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. [Chapters 3, 4, 8]</i></p>
<p>Week 2 (continued)</p>	<p>Introduction to and application of the “sociological imagination” (C. Wright Mills)</p>	<p><i>Fulcher, J. & Scott, J. (2007). Sociology (third edition). New York: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 1]</i></p> <p><i>Giddens, A. (2006). Sociology (fifth edition). Cambridge: Polity. [Introduction]</i></p> <p><i>Haralambos. M. & Holborn, M. (2008). Sociology: Themes and perspectives (seventh edition). London: Collins. [Introduction]</i></p> <p><i>Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). Sociology: A South African introduction. Cape Town: Juta & Company.</i></p>
<p>Week 3 (24-27 Feb 2020)</p>	<p>Introduction to social research</p>	<p><i>Ferrante, J. (2014). Seeing sociology: An introduction (second edition). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. [Chapters 1, 3]</i></p>
	<p>Qualitative approach & methods</p>	<p><i>Fulcher, J. & Scott, J. (2007). Sociology (third edition). New York: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 3]</i></p>
	<p>Quantitative approach & methods</p>	<p><i>Giddens, A. (2006). Sociology (fifth edition). Cambridge: Polity. [Chapter 3]</i></p> <p><i>Haralambos. M. & Holborn, M. (2008). Sociology: Themes and perspectives (seventh edition). London: Collins. [Introduction]</i></p>

4.3 Tutorial 1 - Week 2: 20th & 21st February

Readings:

Sociology Handout 1 (2020), Sociology 1 Handout 2, and Introduction to Sociology (Course Outline)

- You are required to read the Sociology Handout 1 (2020), Sociology 1 Handout 2 (2020) and Introduction to Sociology course outline.
- You must identify areas that you need clarity on, especially in Sociology Handout 1 (2020), and ask the tutor during the tutorial session.
- There is no written assignment for this week's tutorial, and the tutor will facilitate discussion on:
 - The purpose of weekly tutorials and the residence tutor system;
 - How to read sociology texts;
 - How to write an academic essay;
 - How to reference in-text;
 - Paraphrasing and Quoting;
 - Completing of the List of References;
 - Format and Submission of Assignments;
 - Assessment of Tests and Assignments;
 - LOAs and DP.

4.4 Tutorial 2 - Week 3: 27th & 28th February

Readings:

- 1) Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). Pages [xvi-xix].
- 2) Giddens, A. (2006) Pages [4-8].
- 3) Ferrante, J. (2014) Pages [8-12].

Tutorial Assignment

Sociology helps us realise that “things are not what they seem.” It does this by employing what the sociologist C. Wright Mills conceptualised as “the sociological imagination.”

Discuss what ‘sociological imagination’ means, and use your own examples to illustrate the concept.

How to write your tutorial assignment:

- Read Stewart & Zaaiman (2014), Giddens (2006), and Ferrante (2014) on Sociological Imagination;
- Write a 2-3 page typed essay with an introduction in which you introduce the main points and show how your essay is structured;
- Discuss each theme in a new paragraph;
- Define sociological imagination. Identify and define the terms used in these readings about the sociological imagination. Discuss the key issues mentioned and use your own examples to demonstrate your understanding.
- Write a conclusion to your assignment, summing up the main points you have made in your discussion.
- Include a list of references used in your assignment.

5. SECTION B: THEORIES AND PERSPECTIVES

5.1 Introduction and Summary

- In this section, you will be introduced to three foundational sociological theories, namely:
 - Functionalist perspective and Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)
 - Marxist perspective and Karl Marx (1818-1883)
 - Social Action and Interpretive Perspectives and Max Weber (1864-1920)

5.2 Section B: Lecture Outline

	Topic	Readings
Week 4 (02-05 Mar 2020)	Theories & Society (What is theory? What is sociological theory?)	Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008/2013). <i>Sociology: Themes and perspectives</i> (seventh and eight editions). London: Collins. [Chapter 15] Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). <i>Sociology: A South African introduction</i> . Cape Town: Juta & Company. [Chapter 1]
	Emile Durkheim and the Functionalist Theory	Draper, M., Hagemeier, L., Nadasen, K., Thaver, L., Spicer, S. & Batley, K. (2006) <i>X-Kit undergraduate Sociology</i> . Cape Town: Maskew, Miller, Longman. [Chapter 2]
Week 5 (09-12 Mar 2020)	Functionalist Theory (continued)	Graaff, J. (2001). <i>What is Sociology?</i> Cape Town: Oxford University Press. [Chapters 2, 3 & 4] Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008/2013). <i>Sociology: Themes and perspectives</i> (seventh and eight editions). London: Collins. [Chapter 15] Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). <i>Sociology: A South African introduction</i> . Cape Town: Juta & Company. [Chapter 1] As above.
Week 5 (continued)	Karl Marx and the Marxist/Conflict Theory	Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008/2013). <i>Sociology: Themes and perspectives</i> (seventh and eight editions). London: Collins. [Chapter 15] Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). <i>Sociology: A South African introduction</i> . Cape Town: Juta & Company. [Chapter 1]

Week 6 (16-19 Mar 2020)	Karl Marx and the Marxist/Conflict Theory (continued)	<p>Giddens, A. (2006). <i>Sociology</i> (fifth edition). Cambridge: Polity. [Chapter 6]</p> <p>Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008). <i>Sociology: Themes and perspectives</i> (seventh edition). London: Collins. [Chapter 11]</p> <p>Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). <i>Sociology: A South African introduction</i>. Cape Town: Juta & Company. [Chapter 6]</p>
Week 6 (continued)	Max Weber and Social Action, and Interpretive Theories	<p>Giddens, A. (2006). <i>Sociology</i> (fifth edition). Cambridge: Polity. [Chapter 6]</p> <p>Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008). <i>Sociology: Themes and perspectives</i> (seventh edition). London: Collins. [Chapter 11]</p> <p>Stewart, P. & Zaaiman, J. (eds.) (2014). <i>Sociology: A South African introduction</i>. Cape Town: Juta & Company. [Chapter 6]</p>
	Max Weber and Social Action, and Interpretive Theories	
Week 7 (23-27 Mar 2020)	Max Weber and Social Action and Interpretive Perspectives (Last lecture)	
	Second Test and Revision For Exams (3 Lectures)	All readings for the course.

5.4 Tutorial 3 - Week 5: 12th & 13th March

Readings:

1) Ferrante, J. (2014). [Pages 20-25]

2) Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2008). [Pages 9-14]

Tutorial Assignment

Sociological theories provide a broader understanding of society, including the socialisation process. Discuss the socialisation process from the Symbolic Interactionist perspective.

How to write your tutorial assignment:

Read the prescribed readings, and:

- Write a 3 page typed essay with an introduction in which you introduce the main points and show how your essay is structured.
- Discuss each theme on a new paragraph.
- In **week one** we dealt with socialisation and all its different aspects. Go through your notes, readings used and lecture slides focusing on socialisation. Define socialisation. Include the different stages and agents of socialisation discussed in week one.
- Discuss what Symbolic Interactionism is about as explained by Ferrante (2014) and Haralambos and Holborn (2008). In your discussion, show how the socialisation process is viewed through the lens of symbolic interactionism.
- Write a conclusion to your assignment, summing up the main points you have made in your discussion.
- Include a list of references used in your assignment.

Please consult Handout 1 (2020) for an outline of the University's policy on plagiarism, guidelines on the formatting and writing of assignments, the departmental rules regarding citations and references, and the criteria for assessing written work. A copy of the Assignment Cover Sheet, which must accompany all assignments submitted to the Department, is also available in Handout 1. Hard copies of Handout 1 are available in the Department, and electronic copies are on RUconnected (Introduction to Sociology).

6. GENERAL NOTE ON READING MATERIAL

Key readings for this course will be uploaded on RUconnected. You will be directed to the appropriate reading(s) week by week during lectures. It is important that you access readings placed on RUconnected, and you will be shown how to log on to RUconnected during lectures.

The Internet is convenient for information relevant to this course. You are encouraged to use the internet and the library for supplementary and further reading, and will be required to use your research skills for tutorials.