

Here's a rundown of some of the most basic yet essential sociological concepts that one must know when learning about the study of society. Read on and refresh your memory!

Acting crowds - people who come together and have a specific goal to achieve or action to undertake.

Agricultural society - occurred when humans began to invent tools such as digging sticks and hoes and farming became a way of living among most of the members of the society.

Alienation - estrangement of a person from the rest of humanity.

Alternative movements - focus on specific changes in individuals' beliefs and behaviors to reach self-improvement.

Anomie - state of normlessness.

Anomie theory - deviance is caused by individuals, usually from the minority groups, who want to attain a socially approved goal.

Authoritarianism – a political system that allows limited people's participation in the political process.

Bartering - a system where individuals exchange their goods and services without the use of money.

Bilateral descent - tracing one's ancestry through both the paternal and maternal ancestors.

Bourgeoisie - owners of the means of production especially in a capitalist social system.

Capitalism - a type of economic system where the means of production are privately owned.

Casual crowds - people who do not have many interactions but are in the same place at the same time.

Charismatic authority - grounded on the leader's 'charisma' and personality.

Class consciousness - the act of the proletariat's realization of their exploitation.

Coalescence stage - (social movements) - when people organize and come together to publicize a certain issue.

Coercive organization - membership is forced or required and without affinity.

Collective behavior - an activity that is spontaneous and non-institutionalized where people voluntarily engage in.

Commodities - goods put on sale in the market.

Communism - a type of economic system where properties and resources are shared.

Compensatory social control - violator is required to pay and compensate for his offense.

Conciliatory social control - aims to reconcile disputed parties.

Conflict theory - sees society as a result of the continuing competition of people over limited resources.

Contagion theory - individuals are rational but this rationality is blurred once they become part of the crowd.

Conventional crowds - those who come together for a scheduled event.

Convergence theory - crowds reflect the individuals' beliefs and emotions; thus, different individuals converge and find themselves in a crowd having almost a similar stance on a particular issue.

Countercultures - groups whose values, beliefs, and practices are substantially different from the widely accepted culture.

Critical sociology - centered on the basic tenets of historical materialism and seeks to use sociological knowledge to ameliorate human and societal conditions.

Crowds - people in the same place at the same time who are sharing close proximity.

Cult - a religious movement that rejects the accepted norms and values of the larger society.

Cultural hegemony - society's dominant ideology reflects that of the interests of the ruling class.

Cultural imperialism - the act of imposing one's values on another culture.

Cultural relativism - the manner of looking at other cultures in their contexts.

Cultural universals - common cultural patterns that were identified to be common across all societies globally.

Culture - beliefs, values, and practices shared in a society.

Democracy – a form of government characterized by the rule of the people.

Democratic socialism - a type of economic system where some important industries are owned by the government and other properties are privately owned.

Decline stage - (social movements) - occurs once the goal is reached or the people do not show interest in a certain issue anymore.

Denomination - a mainstream and large religious organization that is not sponsored by the state.

Deviance - a term used when cultural and social norms are not followed.

Differential-association theory - environment is a factor that plays a major role in creating room for deviant acts; deviant behaviors are learned by an individual from their interactions.

Digital divide - the increasing gap among regions that have access to communications technology and modern information and those who do not have or little means to acquire it.

Dyad - the smallest type of group composed of two persons characterized with the most intense relationship.

Dysnomia - inconsistency or functional disunity among parts of society; opposite of eunomia.

Ecclesia - a religious congregation that is closely allied with the state and is recognized on a national level.

Economic determinism - a theory originated from Karl Marx that emphasizes economic forces as the main factor that shapes society and its structures.

Economy - a social institution that manages society's resources.

Emergent-norm theory - asserts that crowds respond to rather unfamiliar circumstances by developing new norms that deem to be appropriate for that certain situation.

Emigration - *leaving* an area to reside in another place.

Environmental racism - ethnic and racial minority groups and members of the low-socioeconomic class have a disproportionate exposure to hazardous and dangerous items.

Environmental sustainability - the degree to which the quality of human life is improved, and its activities are sustained without undermining the earth's supporting ecosystems.

Equilibrium theory - social changes will threaten the social order unless other aspects of society will make appropriate adjustments.

Ethnocentrism - view of other cultures based on how it is compared to their own beliefs, values, and practices.

Expressive crowds - people who are gathering to communicate their emotions, like the ones attending funeral services.

Extended family - a structure where parents and grandparents are present; can also consist of the uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Eunomia - functional unity and harmonious relationship between the parts of society.

Evolutionary theory - (*used to explain social change*); states that all societies move in specific directions and go through stages of evolution—progressing continuously.

Family of orientation - the family where a person is born.

Family of procreation - a family that is formed through marriage.

Fecundity number - measured number of offspring that women of childbearing age could give birth to.

Fertility rate - number of born children.

Folkways - conventional behaviors without moral significance.

Formal organizations - groups with a common goal who follow formal relationships and systems of authority.

Goods - physical things individuals discover, make, or nurture to meet one's own needs or those of others.

Government - makes and enforces laws for society.

Habitualization - a process through which habits become part of social patterns, which then will be organized into social structures.

Historical materialism - the belief that societies are shaped mainly by power relations and collective economic activities.

Horticultural societies - as people began to cultivate plants, they gradually formed permanent settlements.

Hunter-gatherer society - nomadic people who rely heavily on wild plants and animals in their surroundings for their food.

Immigration - *entering* a new area where you'll establish your permanent residence.

In-group - a group where a person has a sense of belongingness.

Industrial society - characterized by economic production and work is primarily based on machines like the steam engine.

Institutionalization - a process through which values and beliefs are ingrained in the larger society.

Institutionalization stage - (social movements) - when the movements grow bigger, the organization becomes established, and grassroots volunteerism is no longer required because usually there will now be a paid staff.

Interpretive sociology - accounts for the meanings that an individual attributes to his actions and its focus is to have an in-depth understanding of human activities.

Labeling theory - states that deviant behaviors are only considered as such because of how society labels them.

Laws - formal rules enforced by the state.

Looking-glass self - a social psychological concept, where the "self" is formed and shaped based on other people's perception of them.

Material culture - physical objects and artifacts that are part of the culture.

Matrilineal descent - tracing of kinship through the mother's side.

Matrilocal residence - a system where the husband is supposed to live with or near the wife's relatives.

Mass - composed of many people but are not capable of acting together because they are dispersed and unknown to one another.

Mechanical solidarity - integration among people that is based on their shared values and beliefs.

Metaphysical stage - (law of three stages of societies) - views are based on abstract forces in the form of essences and ideas.

Modernization - a process where there is an increase in the differences among structures and the amount of work specialization.

Monarchy – a political system where a single person serves as the head of the state.

Monogamy - a marriage where a person is married to only one.

Mores - norms of morality that embodies society's moral views and principles.

Mortality rate - the measure of the frequency of death's occurrence in a given population within a particular time interval.

Multilinear evolutionary theory - proposed by Gerhard Lenski Jr., it states that societies undergo through different lines and that change does not necessarily steer in the same direction.

Nonmaterial culture - consists of shared ideas, attitudes, and beliefs.

Normative organization - membership is voluntary and is based on a shared interest.

Norms - established and agreed-upon expectations and rules in the society.

Nuclear family - a structure that includes married parents and children.

Oligarchy – a government by the few, which is usually composed of the elite group.

Organic analogy - society's parts (institutions and structures) are interrelated and interdependent just like the human body.

Organic solidarity - social cohesion that is a result of work specialization, which then leads to the interdependence of society's members with one another.

Out-group - a group wherein an individual sees himself as an outsider.

Pastoral societies - the time when people discovered their ability to breed animals and started to have surplus goods and engage in trading.

Patriarchy - male-dominant societies and where structures and systems are oppressive and unequal to women

Patrilineal descent - tracing of kinship through the father's side.

Patrilocal residence - a system where the wife is supposed to live with or near the husband's relatives.

Penal social control - addressing violations and deviant behavior through punishments.

Personal troubles - private issues that are within the individual's control and character.

Politics - the activity of sharing power and influencing its distribution among groups in a society.

Polygamy - the practice of having multiple spouses.

Power - individual's ability to exercise his will on the other person.

Positive stage - (law of three stages of societies) - society is dominated by a scientific way of thinking and the main basis are facts that can be observed and gathered.

Positivist sociology - the application of scientific methods from natural sciences in order to find the natural laws of social behavior.

Postindustrial societies - (also referred to as information or digital societies) - centered on producing non-material goods such as information and services.

Pre-industrial - (evolution of societies) - mostly agricultural and are limited to human labor.

Preliminary stage - (social movements) - the stage when individuals reach awareness about a certain issue and key potential leaders are seen.

Primary economic sector - part of the economy that utilizes raw materials coming directly from the earth's resources.

Primary groups - a small group with strong emotional ties, intimate interaction, and is composed of one's significant others.

Profane things - the mundane things.

Proletariat - the working class in a capitalist society.

Public - composed of many people who share similar ideas on certain issues.

Public goods - goods provided for everyone and nonrivalrous in terms of consumption.

Public issues - challenges that are linked to the society's structures, institutions, and processes.

Quaternary sector - comprises of the specialized activities that are information and knowledge-based service.

Quinary sector - focuses on high-levels of decision making.

Rational-legal authority - power made legitimate by written rules and regulations.

Reference groups - serves as a standard of measurement where people compare themselves with.

Reform movements - movements that seek to change a particular thing on the social structure.

Religious beliefs - specific ideas of a particular faith that members believe in.

Religious experiences - refer to the sensation that they feel as they connect to the 'divine'.

Religious/Redemptive movements - referred to as "meaning-seeking" movements; the goal of this is to inspire spiritual growth or inner change among individuals.

Religious rituals - practices that are expected from members of a particular religious group.

Resistance movements - movements that attempt to impede change in society's structure.

Revolutionary movements - aims to radically and completely change the ways of society.

Roles - expected behavioral patterns that represent a person's status.

Sacred things - collective representations that are set apart and forbidden.

Secondary economic sector - transforms raw materials into finished and valuable products.

Secondary groups - usually a task-focused group, larger in size, and more impersonal in nature.

Sect - a smaller and less organized religious group.

Self-fulfilling prophecy - false beliefs and expectations about a person would lead them to act in a way that would make the false conception true.

Significant others - individuals who play a vital role when it comes to one's socialization.

Social aggregate - people who are in the same place at the same time, have superficial interactions but do not have a shared sense of identity.

Social category - individuals who have at least one similar attribute but not interacting.

Social control - regulation of norms.

Social Darwinism - inspired by the work of Charles Darwin, it is the application of principles of biological evolution to the evolution of societies.

Social dynamics - highlights the social change that was founded on Comte's law of three stages of societies.

Social facts - things external to the individual and exert certain control over him.

Social group - two or more people who share a common identity and have regular interactions.

Social inequality - the condition of having unequal access to the benefits one can get from society.

Social institutions - mechanisms of social order with the goal of addressing the needs of society.

Social movements - a collective behavior that is an organized effort and goal-driven.

Social statics - focuses on how social structures interact with one another to maintain social order.

Social stratification - the ranking of people within the society based on socioeconomic factors.

Social structures - patterned social relations and organized social institutions.

Socialism - the means of production is collectively owned.

Socialization - a lifelong process of internalizing society's values, norms, and beliefs.

Society - a group of people interacting within a defined spatial territory who share cultural beliefs and practices.

Sociological imagination - a quality of mind that enables one to "*grasp the interplay of individuals and society, of biography and history, of self and world*" (Mills, 1959).

Sociology - the scientific study of society.

Status - one's social position within a group.

Status quo - current structures, values, and state of a group.

Structural-functionalist perspective - views society as an organism with interrelated parts that work together to maintain social order.

Subcultures - groups that possess the dominant culture but have specific identifications at the same time.

Symbolic interactionist perspective - focuses on human actions and patterns across individual behaviors; human action is based on the meanings they attribute toward a situation and these meanings are formed from their interactions with one another and the society, which can also be modified through an interpretive process.

Taboos - societal behaviors that are prohibited.

Tertiary economic sector - service-oriented economy.

Theological stage - (law of three stages of societies) - a time when the world is viewed in terms of supernatural powers and deities.

Totalitarianism – the state possesses unlimited power and control over its people.

Traditional authority - the legitimacy of authority is based on the acceptance of people in the past.



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Sociological Terms

Triad - a three-person group that is deemed to be more stable than a dyad because the third person can help balance the first two individuals whenever conflict happens.

Unilateral descent - tracing of kinship with one parent only.

Unilinear evolutionary theories - all societies go through the almost similar order of stages of evolution toward a common end.

Utilitarian organization - the reason for membership is to get a specific material reward.

Verstehen - a German term, which means to understand; this simply means putting oneself in someone's shoes.



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science-reviewer/](https://filipiknow.net/social-science-reviewer/)

To God be the glory!