Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 2**

2.1 Outline the development of sociology.

**Video Link:** [History of Sociology](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2VdyBM3AGw)

*This video provides background of the history of sociology.*

1. What notion did John Locke champion?
2. Which theorist developed the labor theory of value?

**Audio Link:** [Burroughs 101](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/546/burroughs-101)

*This audio documents the life of William Burroughs.*

1. What is one this that was significant to others of Burroughs’ lifestyle?
2. Why was Burroughs so influential?

**Web Resource:** [Development of Sociology](http://www.sociologyguide.com/introduction-to-sociology/development-of-sociology.php)

*This document details the history and development of sociology.*

1. Who coined the term “sociology”?
2. What was most notable that Durkheim studied?

2.2 Describe the key points of sociology’s major theoretical perspectives.

**Video Link:** [3 Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg6N3d6FmQg)

*A brief lecture on 3 theoretical perspectives in sociology: conflict, structural-functionalist, and symbolic interactionist theory.*

1. What is a theoretical perspective?
2. Is symbolic interactionism macro or micro social perspective?

**Audio Link:** [The Annoying Gap between Theory . . . and Practice](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/250/the-annoying-gap-between-theoryand-practice)

*This audio discusses many situations in which theory does not always reflect reality.*

1. Do you think a leadership position in the community is a good way to invoke positive change in society?
2. Do you think theory represents practice?

**Web Resource:** [Three Major Perspectives in Sociology](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/sciences/sociology/the-sociological-perspective/three-major-perspectives-in-sociology)

*This page provides a concise comparison of the three major sociological perspectives.*

1. Which two sociological perspectives are considered to stem from a macro level of analysis?
2. To which classic theorist does symbolic interaction trace its origins?

2.3 Explain the core ideas underlying the scientific approach to understanding society.

**Video Link:** [The Wisdom of Sociology](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWD6g9CV_sc)

*This TED talk suggests one way that sociology can be life changing by exploring how sociologists teach us to re-imagine our personal problems and ourselves.*

1. Describe how the personal decision of suicide is a sociological question.
2. How does sociology help to explain the lack of individual freedom due to the structure of society?

**Audio Link:** [Need to Know Basis](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/552/need-to-know-basis)

*This audio provides insight into the costs and benefits of truth telling.*

1. Explain why telling the truth is not always beneficial.
2. Explain the benefits of withholding the truth to protect people.

**Web Resource:** [Understanding Sociology – Debates about field experiments in the social sciences](http://understandingsociety.blogspot.com/)

*This article explores some of the methodological approaches to sociology.*

1. Explain why there is not one particular method that works for all forms of social inquiry.
2. Explain why the concept of emergence is elusive.

2.4 List the basic steps of the scientific research process.

**Video Link:** [The Scientific Method – Steps, Terms, and Examples](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVfI1wat2y8)

*This video is a short introduction to the scientific method.*

1. What are the six key steps to the scientific method?
2. Is the approach to the scientific method the same for all social sciences?

**Audio Link:** [Batman](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/544/batman)

*This audio explores the effects of people’s expectations on others.*

1. Do the expectations placed on people affect their behavior?
2. Does the way a blind child is raised affect his abilities to navigate the world?

**Web Resource:** [The Nature of Science and the Scientific Method](http://www.geosociety.org/educate/NatureScience.pdf)

*This document details the scientific method.*

1. Explain the importance of the testability of a scientific hypothesis.
2. What part of the scientific method sets science apart from other disciplines?