**Chapter 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World  
This American Life**

**Recommended Readings**

**Peter Berger, Invitation to Sociology**This classic work explains the history and traditions of sociology and encourages the use of scientific methods within the discipline.

**Peter Berger, The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge**Here, Berger advances the field of the sociology of knowledge. He examines the ways that propaganda, science, art, and false consciousness shape what we perceive as the truth.

**Charlotte Gattone, The Social Scientist as Public Intellectual: Critical Reflections in a Changing World** Gattone draws upon the work of contemporary and classical social theorists to argue that social scientists should feel free to act in accordance with or free from the constraints of other social institutions.

**C. Wright Mills, The Sociological Imagination**In this classic piece, Mills explains how he feels that sociology should be approached. He argues that we should examine the social, personal, and historical aspects of people's lived experiences.

**Evitatar Zerubavel, Social Mindscapes: An Introduction to Cognitive Society**In this book, Zerubavel attempts to bridge the gap between sociology and cognitive science, arguing that knowledge of cognition plays a crucial role in understanding social relations.

**Dan Clawson, Editor, *Public Sociology: Fifteen Eminent Sociologists Debate Politics and the Profession in the Twenty-First Century***

In this text, eminent scholars in the field debate whether or not sociology should engage activism alongside education. They discuss the benefits and disadvantages of incorporating messages of action in education.

**Peter Berger, *Telling About Society***

In this book, Berger discusses various mediums we can tell others or learn about society. Berger discusses popular and academic works to discuss how we can “tell about society” in numerous, meaningful ways.

**Fabio Rojas, *From Black Power to Black Studies: How a Radical Social Movement Became an Academic Discipline***

In this work, Rojas discusses how the black power movement influenced the American higher education system in a way that institutionalized itself as an academic discipline. Rojas shows how social movements and organizations influence and assimilate one another.

**Malcolm Spector, John I. Kitsuse, *Constructing Social Problems***

The authors of this classic book provide a solid definition for social problems and how they are constructed by claimsmakers who are individuals or groups that regard certain social conditions to be unjust, immoral, or harmful. This initially controversial book will be of interest to those wanting an empirical perspective on the construction of social problems and how some “problems” are legitimized and others are not.

**McDonald, Lynn, *Women Founders of the Social Sciences***

The author examines the important but often overlooked contribution of such pioneers as Mary Wollstonecraft, Harriet Martineau, Beatrice Webb, Jane Addams, and many more.

**Steur, Max, *The Scientific Study of Society***

This book gives a useful overview of the approach to various social issues across five social science disciplines: sociology, economics, political science, social psychology, and anthropology