Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 3**

3.1 Describe the structure (the “hardware”) of our social world.

**Video Link:** [Societal Structure and Social Interaction](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZgt7jPPjGQ)

*This video helps to explain meaning of social structure and social interaction.*

1. What is social structure?
2. What is prescribed role?

**Audio Link:** [If You Don't Have Anything Nice to Say, SAY IT IN ALL CAPS](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/545/if-you-dont-have-anything-nice-to-say-say-it-in-all-caps)

*This audio explores the anonymity of the internet and the safety it brings to people as a forum for cruelty.*

1. Why does the internet make people feel at ease to be cruel?
2. Is it possible for the anonymity of the internet to be useful to society?

**Web Resource:** [Hardware and Software of our Social World](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CC0QFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.csub.edu%2F~gsantos%2FChapter03-soc100.ppt&ei=YvAqVe-cBoLegwS7loCYCA&usg=AFQjCNGLzIZ2RZEYdDyQMoNblMJaIFzAaA&sig2=A6B22PRSLni-32p2oe_J3A)

*This PowerPoint explains the hardware and software of our social world.*

1. Why is culture considered the software of society?
2. What are two components to the stages of development of society?

3.2 Illustrate how culture affects individuals.

**Video Link:** [Cultural Meaning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrgPuiy2wdY)

*This video explains the importance of cultural meaning.*

1. Provide an example of something that is done with a cultural basis.
2. Provide an example of something that is generally understood through cultural meaning.

**Audio Link:** [Not it!](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/554/not-it)

*This audio explains cultural meaning within certain societies.*

1. How does a city obtain a title…and get rid of it?
2. What is the significance of playing “not it”?

**Web Resource:** [Culture Shaping our Perception](http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/exchange/node/7344)

*This document helps to explain how culture affects our perceptions.*

1. Explain how the Nisbett study shows that two cultures can have a fundamental different focus in social situations.
2. How does language shape the way we think?

3.3 Provide examples of microcultures, subcultures, countercultures, and global cultures.

**Video Link:** [Subcultures and Countercultures](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEh9VIUtlqQ)

*This video explains the difference between subcultures and countercultures.*

1. Provide two examples of subcultures.
2. What is the definition of a cultural identity and why is it important?

**Audio Link:** [Stuck in the Middle](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/553/stuck-in-the-middle-2015)

*This audio focuses on the often hated state of limbo, being stuck in the middle.*

1. What makes being stuck in the middle of a situation so difficult?
2. Should someone’s values force another to remain in limbo?

**Web Resource:** [What is the difference between Micro culture, Subculture, and Counterculture](http://www.whatisdifferencebetween.com/culture/what-is-the-difference-between-microculture-subculture-and-counterculture.html)

*This document details the differences between micro culture, subculture, and counterculture.*

1. What is the definition of a counterculture?
2. How is a micro culture different from a subculture?

3.4 Compare key ideas in the symbolic interactionist, functionalist, and conflict perspectives on culture.

**Video Link:** [Social Theories Overview](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfKQ-ozKktM)

*This video provides an overview of functionalism, conflict theory, social constructionism, and symbolic interactionism.*

1. Explain the simplest way to think of functionalism.
2. What is an historical example of conflict theory?

**Audio Link:** [Good Guys 2015](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/551/good-guys-2015)

*This audio highlights and challenges the cultural norms of “the good guy.”*

1. What do you think about the good guy discount?
2. Do you think it is necessary for the person who benefits from your good deed to know about it for it to matter?

**Web Resource:** [Paradigms in Sociology](http://www.soc.iastate.edu/sapp/soc235Phil.html)

*This document details the three main paradigms in sociology: structure-functionalism; Marxism; and symbolic interactionism.*

1. Briefly explain all three sociological paradigms.
2. Explain the main difference of symbolic interactionism from structure-functionalism and Marxism.

3.5 Explain why culture (the “software”) from one society does not always “fit” with the structure (“hardware”) of another society.

**Video Link:** [Cultural Differences National Geographic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT0kzF4A-WQ)

*This video highlights the cultural differences from those in Africa and in the United States.*

1. Explain two main things that the people in the video noticed was different from their home.
2. Explain two main social things that the people in the video noticed was different than Africa.

**Audio Link:** [Cultural Differences-Individualism and Collectivism](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3b8YcXWkqvo)

*This audio highlights how the many cultures of the world differ in a great variety of ways.*

1. What is the main difference between a collectivistic and individualistic society?
2. Which society tends to get divorced more often, collectivist or individualist?

**Web Resource:** [Difference between Culture and Society](http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/difference-between-culture-and-society/)

*This document highlights the difference between culture and society.*

1. Why is culture an important part of a society?
2. What are the three levels of culture?