

Sociology Introduction

The Sociological Imagination

Opener

- Who shall survive

Explain why you made the decisions you made in **each case.**

Opener Part 2

- Please write down how each of the **three perspectives** could be used to analyze the “who shall survive” exercise
- Conflict Perspective
- Functionalist Perspective
- Symbolic Interactionism

Opener- Write small

- 1. Explain what you think this means and give an example from the real world ON
THE WHITE PAPER

“In the game of life, we may decide how to play our cards, but it is society that deals us the hand” (Univ. of Limerick 2007)

What is Sociology?

- Sociology—the study of human behavior & how humans interact in **groups**

2. How do people act in groups?

Conformity

Conformity is how members of a group think, feel, and behave in a similar way.

3. Can you give some examples of groups and how people conform in them?

What groups do you conform to?

-Brainstorm a list of other “groups” or “cliques” in Bettendorf High!

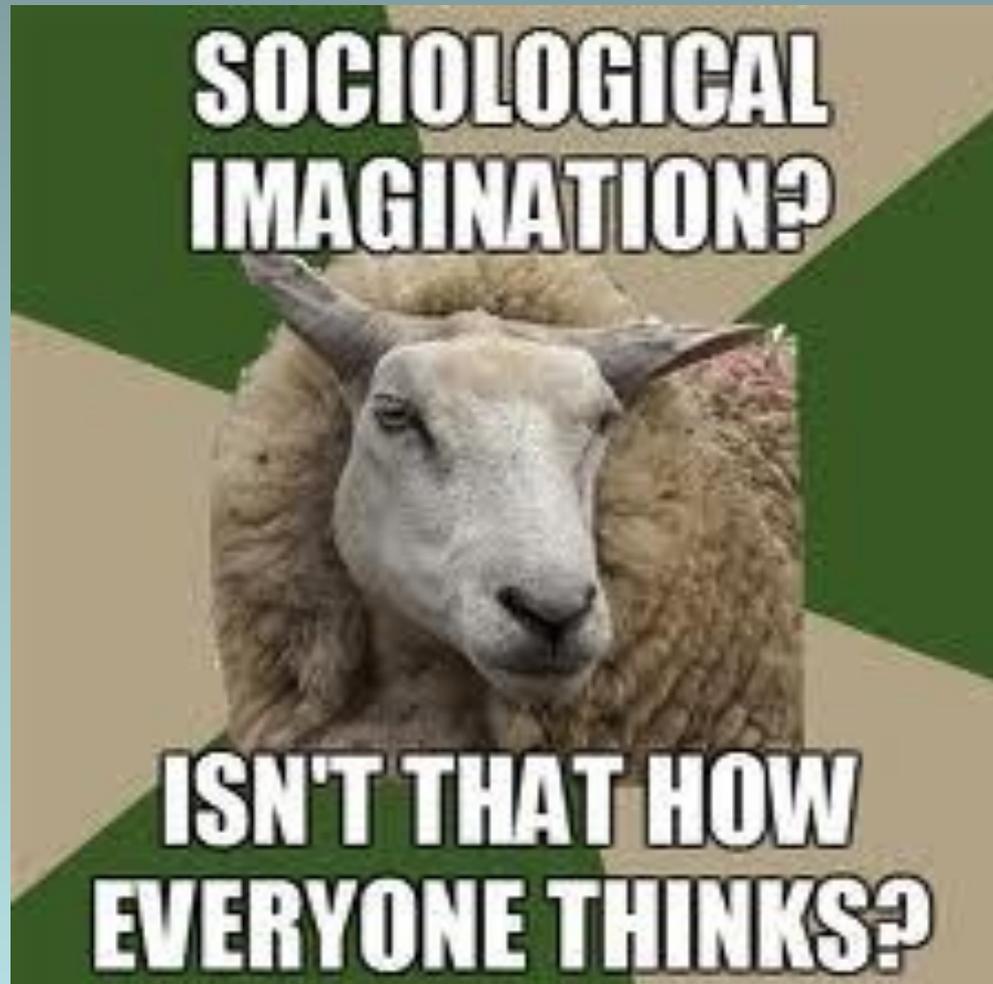
Please respond to the two Q's

4. you put yourself into a group/ clique/ category. **How accurate was that exercise?** How can stereotyping play a role in you high school life when associated with one **group or clique?**

5. People's behavior within a group setting **cannot be** predicted from their **personal characteristics.**

Can you think of any **examples?**

Sociological Imagination



Sociological Imagination

- How we see the relationship between events in our **personal lives and society**
- Helps us understand the effects of events **in our society** on our daily lives

Sociological Perspective

- Focus on the behavior of **groups**, not individuals
- Concentrate on categories of people—men, teens,
- Look for patterns of behavior of people—the social structure
- Seek to explain events without relying on personal factors but **social factors**



Sociological Perspective

Examples-



- Why do young men join gangs?
- Why do teens commit suicide?

Sociological Perspective

Examples-

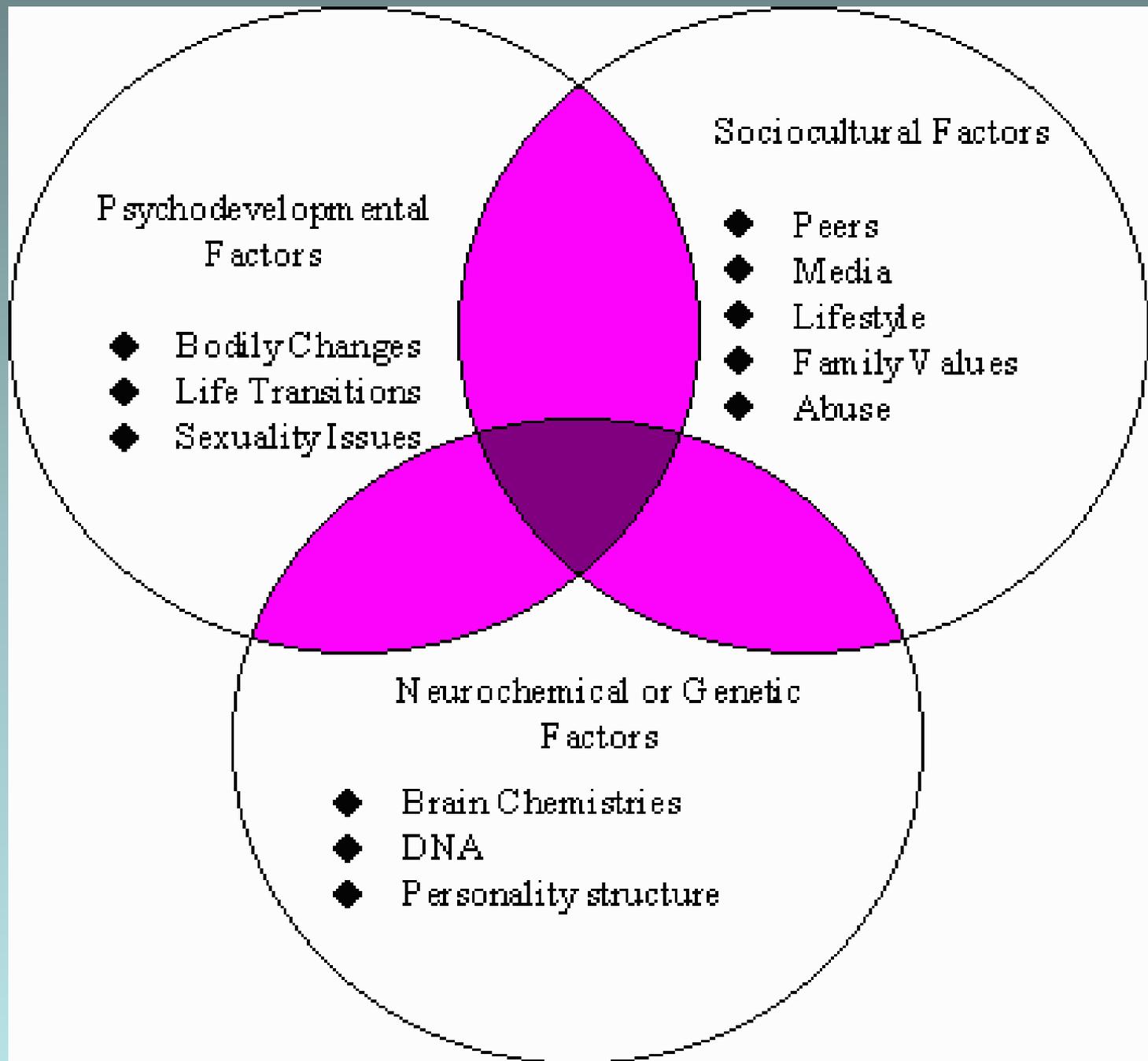


- Young men join gangs because they have been taught by society to be masculine/ get money/ “respect”
- Teens commit suicide because of peer group expectations of looks, material things, and performance

Try it!- How can we apply sociological imagination to these scenarios?

1. A young girl and Anorexia?

2. Why is divorce on the rise?



Psychodevelopmental Factors

- ◆ Bodily Changes
- ◆ Life Transitions
- ◆ Sexuality Issues

Sociocultural Factors

- ◆ Peers
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Lifestyle
- ◆ Family Values
- ◆ Abuse

Neurochemical or Genetic Factors

- ◆ Brain Chemistries
- ◆ DNA
- ◆ Personality structure

Divorce

Her burgeoning sexuality is a threat to another woman, so she's killed. Her only asset, physical beauty, is what saves her in the end.

Betrothed at birth to solidify a political position, she is killed by another woman out of spite. Her owner...ahem...fiance, saves her with a kiss. Again, sex is her only salvation.

This princess must get married to satisfy the requirements of the law. Her reluctance to do so causes her powerful father no end of trouble. She is enslaved by a powerful man and is only saved by the wit of a street rat.

This one drastically changes her physical appearance so as to be more attractive to man. The price is that she can't speak. No problem, she has nothing of value to say anyhow. She is saved by a prince.

Saves a prince's life. With her only asset, her sexuality.

She is saved from terrible living conditions by a prince. He does this, not because she's such a hard worker, but because she is beautiful.



What Disney princes teach men about attracting women:

Be rich, charming, famous, and good looking.

Be charming, good looking and *appear* to be rich and famous.

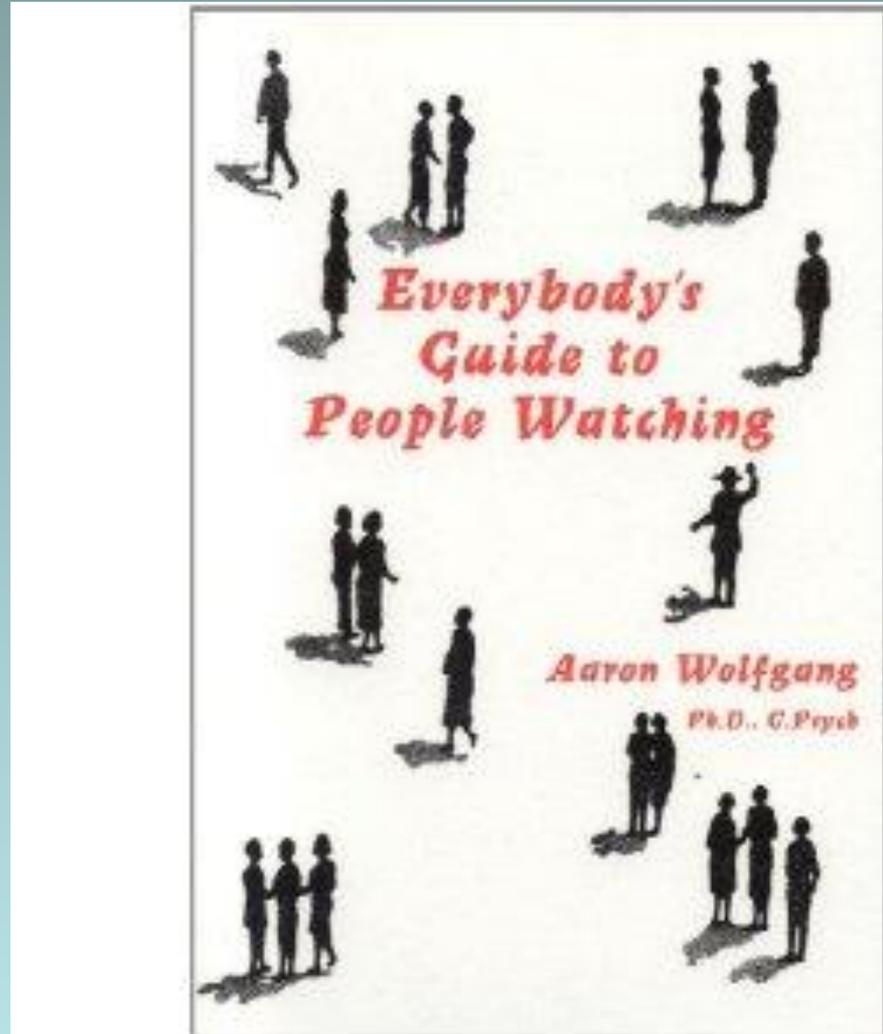
Be rich and famous with a promise of charm and good looks to come later.

Examples Cont

- Crack Dealers
living with moms
- Gang Leader for a
Day

Assignment: mini paper 1

- Due MONDAY



Interesting Wedding Tradition

- How would you meet and marry your future spouse?
-Well it depends on **WHERE** you live.



Who's Who in Sociology- A little History

- Sociology is a young science
- Started in Europe
- Spread to United States

ASSIGNMENT!

Opener

- Please get your presentations/ Skits ready
- (Ten- twelve minute countdown timer)
- Mini- Paper turned in if not done so already!

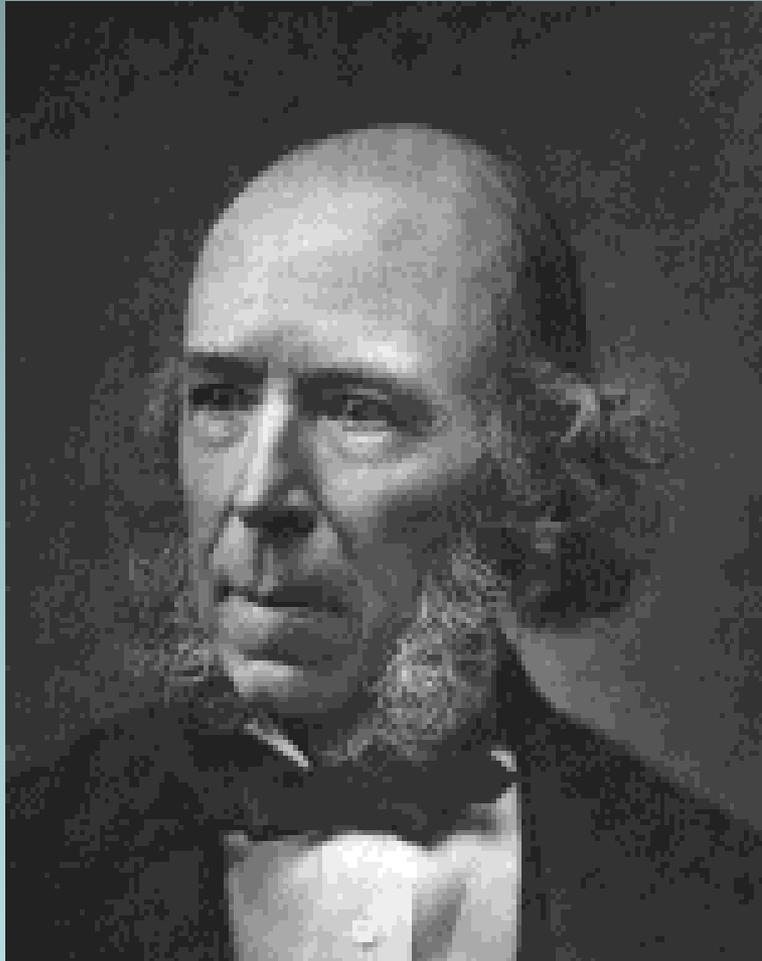
Auguste Comte

- Father of Sociology
- Scientific Study of Society
- Positivism---
knowledge should be derived from **scientific observation**
- Social Dynamics—
the study of how **societies change**



Auguste Comte

Herbert Spencer



- Social Darwinism—changes in society led to progress
- We should not interfere; no social reform
- Survival of the Fittest

Emile Durkheim



- Famous suicide study!
- Use of **statistics** in research of society
- Human behavior must be explained by social factors rather than psychological factors

Max Weber

- Verstehen---
understanding the social
behavior of others by
mentally putting yourself
in their places
- “Putting yourself in
someone else’s shoes”



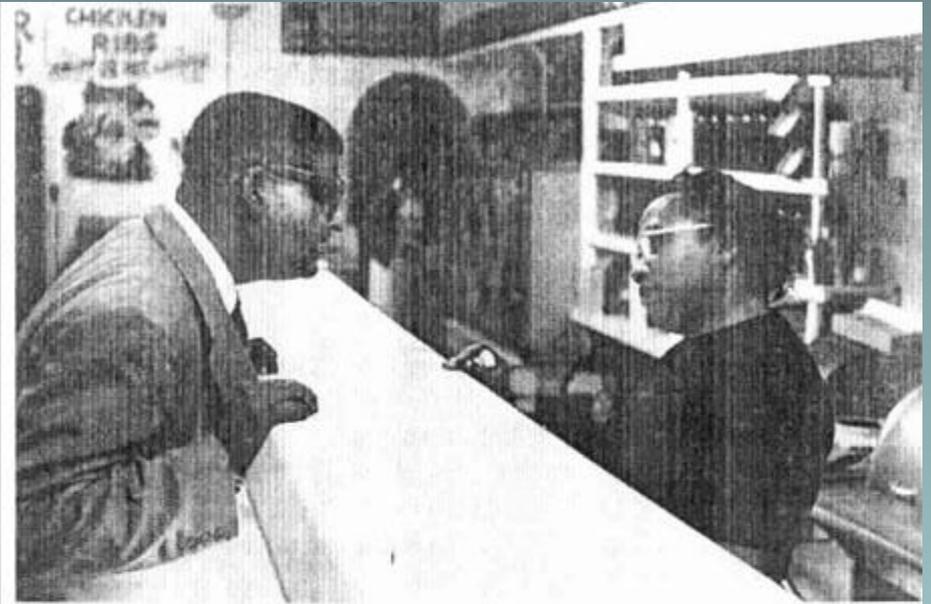
Max Weber

- Believed sociologists must put aside personal biases or values when analyzing society
- **Verstehen---**
understanding the social behavior of others by mentally putting yourself in their places
- “Putting yourself in someone else’s shoes”





LIFE



Harriet Martineau



- Translated Compté's work into English
- Wrote about the inferior role of women in society
- Supported the end of slavery & rights for women

Jane Addams



- American social reformer
- Co-founded the Hull House in city slum
- Active in women's rights & the peace movement
- Saw the effects of industrialization on the poor
- Imbalance of power in the social classes

W.E.B. DuBois

- African American Activist
- Analyzed the social structure of the Black community
- Worked for African American Rights
- Helped create NAACP



Karl Marx

- **Change** the world instead of just studying it
- **Studied Class conflicts**—richer take advantage of the poor
- Believed the clash would lead to communism
- Planned revolution would speed up the change to communism where all people would be equal



Opener

- 1. Pull out your notes
- 2. Speaking of CULTURE- does American culture promote VIOLENCE?
- Give examples!?

Opener

- OPENER--- on back of the PAPER I gave you, describe the steps of the scientific method.
- Then flip over and complete
- Durkheim- **Suicide**
- **CAUSATION AND CORRELATION*****

The Big Three

Perspectives of Sociology

Functionalism--society as an integrated whole

Conflict Perspective—looks at class, race, & gender issues

Symbolic Interaction---examines how group members have shared symbols

Perspective & Perception

Perception---how your brain interprets an image or event

Perspective—a point of view o the way you interpret the meaning of an image or event

Your perspective comes from your beliefs and values and it influences how you see things (perception)

= Different people **see things** in **different ways**

Functionalism

- Parts of society (e.g. family, economy, religion) contributes to the whole
- If one part breaks down, the other parts are affected
- E.g. Functionalist may blame an increase in teen crime to a breakdown in the family structure

Conflict

- Conflict, competition, change, & constraint
- Disagreement between different groups in society
- Each want to promote their values & interests
- Struggle
- Those groups with the power control others
- E.g. Race & Gender Issues

Symbolic Interactionism

- Focuses on the interaction between people
- We learn the meaning of symbols from how we see others reacting to the symbol
- We then base our behavior on the signals
- We use the meaning of symbols to imagine how others will respond to our behavior
- E.g. Burping after a meal is considered rude in the US but in other countries it is a compliment to the cook

In the US, we stand & face the flag during the national anthem

| Functionalism | Conflict | Symbolic Interactionism |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Identify which theory perspective

- A. Power is one of the most important elements in social life. _____
- B. Religion helps hold a society together morally. _____
- C. Gestures and communication is crucial to social life. _____
- D. Many Social change is constantly occurring through struggles. _____
- E. Social life should be understood from the viewpoint of the individuals involved.

Identify which theory perspective

- A. Societies are in relative balance. _____
- B. Power is one of the most important elements in social life. _____
- C. Religion helps hold a society together morally. _____
- D. Symbols are crucial to social life. _____
- E. Many elements of society exist to benefit the powerful. _____

Identify which theory perspective

F. Different segments of a society compete to achieve their own self-interest rather than cooperate to benefit all _____

G. Social life should be understood from the viewpoint of the individuals involved.

H. Social change is constantly occurring through struggles. _____

Perspectives Practice

- HIP Hop- Beyond Beats and Rhymes