

Journal 8/21/18

WHAT IS A GENERAL EXPLANATION FOR HOW SOCIETY FUNCTIONS?

- WHAT CAUSES STABILITY/CHAOS IN SOCIETY?
- ARE THEIR UNSEEN SOCIAL FORCES AT PLAY?

Unit 1: Sociological Theory

Table of Contents

1. Unit 1 Table of Contents
2. Notes: What is Sociology/Origins of Sociology
3. Questions: Origins of Sociology Questions
4. Notes: Sociological Imagination
5. Sociological Imagination Activity
6. Have Smart Phones Destroyed a Generation?
7. Socratic Seminar Prep
8. Notes: Theory Overview

Sociological Theory

Academic Vocab

- ▶ Theory
 - ▶ A proposed relationship between two or more *concepts*, an explanation for why or how a phenomenon occurs
- ▶ Micro
 - ▶ microsociology focuses on smaller groups, patterns and trends, typically at the community level and in the context of the everyday lives and experiences of people
- ▶ Macro
 - ▶ Sociological approaches and methods that examine large-scale patterns and trends within the overall social structure, system, and population. Often theoretical in nature

Academic Vocab

- ▶ Paradigm
 - ▶ Typical example or model
- ▶ Symbol
 - ▶ something that stands for or suggests something else
- ▶ Function
 - ▶ the action for which a person or thing is specially fitted or used or for which a thing exists
- ▶ Conflict
 - ▶ competitive or opposing action of incompatibles

4 Main Theoretical Perspectives Sociology

Functionalism

Conflict Theory

Symbolic
Interactionism

Social
Constructionism

Sociological Theory

- ▶ A prediction
- ▶ An assumption
- ▶ A way to explain social interaction
- ▶ A way to create testable propositions about society
- ▶ As within other sciences, all sociological research begins with theory

Functionalism

- ▶ Emile Durkheim
- ▶ First Sociological Theory
- ▶ Society is a complex organism that works together toward stability
- ▶ Macro

Conflict Theory

- ▶ Karl Marx
- ▶ Competition over scarce resources is at the heart of all social relationships
- ▶ Inequalities in power and reward are built into all social structures. Individuals
 - ▶ groups that benefit from any particular structure strive to see it maintained
- ▶ Change occurs as a result of conflict between competing interests rather than through adaptation
- ▶ Macro

Symbolic Interactionism

- ▶ George Herbert Mead
- ▶ Human beings act toward things on the basis of the meanings that things have for them
- ▶ Meanings arise from ongoing processes of social interaction and interpretation
- ▶ Social action results from a "joint action", or the fitting together of individual lines of action
- ▶ Micro

Social Constructionism

- ▶ Peter Berger
- ▶ Aims to discover the ways that individuals and groups create their perceived reality
- ▶ Social constructionism focuses on the description of institutions and actions and not on analyzing cause and effect
- ▶ Reality is seen as an on-going dynamic process; reality is re-produced by people acting on their interpretations of what they perceive to be the world external to them
- ▶ Micro and Macro