

The education that students receive should allow them to live fuller, richer, and more fruitful lives. Such a goal is ultimately the bedrock upon which we build and justify our careers as educators and sociologists. Students today face the challenges presented by the transformation to an information and global economy, the growth of biotechnology and cloning, the ever-expanding human population, and the environmental problems associated with population growth. To understand and live in this rapidly changing social environment, they need a solid foundation in sociological concepts and perspectives.

Sociology encourages us to examine aspects of our social environment that we might otherwise ignore, neglect, or take for granted, and it allows us to look beneath the surface of everyday life. The introductory course in sociology gives students the opportunity to use this sociological imagination in understanding and mastering their social world, and *Sociology: The Core* provides the information they need to do so.

Providing the Core

A course in sociology should broaden students' horizons, sharpen their observational skills, and strengthen their analytical capabilities. *Sociology: The Core* aims to make the introductory course manageable for instructors and students alike. The seventh edition retains the core concept with a tight, readable text that provides the essentials. It includes all the major sections of the sixth edition, with streamlined feature boxes, figures that present data critical to an introductory text, and a stick-to-the-basics approach. It provides the core of sociology—the basic foundations of the discipline.

The coverage of many key topics in *Sociology: The Core*—theory, culture, socialization, groups, formal organizations, deviance, social

stratification, race, gender, power, the family, religion, and social change—is equal to, and in many cases exceeds, that found in most other introductory textbooks. The **functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives** are introduced in the first chapter and applied throughout the book. This helps students to develop a solid understanding of these major sociological perspectives and their contributions to the topics covered here, and it provides something for everyone in departments where all faculty members are required to use the same introductory textbook.

It would be presumptuous for any sociologist to program another sociologist's course. Instead, we hope that *Sociology: The Core* provides a solid resource—a common intellectual platform—that each instructor can use as a sound foundation in developing an introductory course. As a coherent presentation of sociological materials, a core text is an aid to pedagogy. Instructors can supplement the text with papers, readers, or monographs that meet their unique teaching needs. Likewise, students can use *Sociology: The Core* as a succinct source of information.

Bringing Students In

In *Sociology: The Core*, we seek to make sociology come alive as a vital and exciting field, to relate principles to real-world circumstances, and to attune students to the dynamic processes of our rapidly changing contemporary society. The study of a science can captivate student interest and excite their imaginations. In this new edition, we capitalize on students' desires to read about issues of interest to them with *new feature boxes* on reality TV and conformity, blogging, becoming an adult, high school identities and their impact on adult life, and affirmative action in college admissions, along with boxes retained from the sixth edition on issues such as campus rape, binge drinking, and

gender-norm violations. Because students live and will work in an increasingly diverse and global world, we have increased coverage of global issues with new boxes on exporting toxic trash and cultural variation in marking time, as well as by integrating cross-cultural comparisons in various chapters. Our new box series, “Social Inequalities,” enhances our emphasis on issues of race, ethnicity, class, and gender as a regular part of most topics in sociology.

Pedagogical Aids

In selecting pedagogical aids for the text, we decided to use those that provide the most guidance with the least clutter and to focus on those that students are most likely to actually use.

Chapter Outline

Each chapter opens with an outline of its major headings; this allows students to preview at a glance the material to be covered.

Cross-Reference Icons

Referrals to material in other chapters are highlighted with “cross-reference” icons that provide specific page references, making it easy for students and instructors to find such material.

Questions for Discussion

Each feature box now includes two or three questions geared toward linking the box material to core concepts and toward getting students thinking about the issues raised.

Key Terms

The terms most essential to the core of sociology are set in boldface type and are defined as they are presented in the text. These key terms appear in the chapter summaries, again in boldface type to emphasize their importance and to reinforce the student’s memory. At the end of each chap-

ter, a **Glossary** lists the key terms included in the chapter and provides their definitions. All key terms appear in the index, along with an indication of where they are first defined.

Chapter Summary

Each chapter concludes with a **Chapter in Brief** summary that uses the same outline of major headings used in the chapter opener. The summary recapitulates the central points, allowing students to review what they have read in a systematic manner. The use of major headings allows students to return to the appropriate section in the chapter for more information. The Chapter in Brief includes all of the glossary terms, boldfaced to remind students that they are key terms.

Review Questions

Each chapter concludes with a list of review questions on the central ideas presented in the chapter.

Internet Exercises

Each end-of-chapter **Internet Connection** provides students with an opportunity to explore sociological data and information on the Internet and hone their critical-thinking skills.

Boxes

The seventh edition includes four types of boxes, all of which add to the concepts and theories discussed in the chapter in which they appear, and many of which add insights to other chapters as well.

Social Inequalities boxes explore inequalities of race, ethnicity, class, or gender from a sociological perspective. Topics include race, crime, and punishment; geographical variation in gender inequality; same-sex marriage; affirmative action; disenfranchisement; and unequal childhoods.

Doing Social Research boxes focus on how social scientists approach various research problems. Topics discussed have been chosen to illustrate or enhance the topics discussed in the chapter.

Sociology Around the World boxes focus on sociological research that extends beyond the United States, on research done with subjects from outside the United States, on cross-cultural sociological research, and on illustrations of sociological concepts in a variety of cultural settings.

Students Doing Sociology boxes summarize the experience of students who were asked to think like sociologists: to interpret certain events with sociological concepts and principles or to perform sociological research.

Figures and Tables

The data presented in the figures and tables throughout *Sociology: The Core* are as up-to-date as possible—and as user-friendly and accessible as we could make them. Whenever possible, we have created figures from published data instead of simply presenting percentages and numbers from statistical sources. In many cases, we have generated original analyses from publicly available data sets. Sources for figures and tables include the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics, the General Social Survey, the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, and the Survey of Consumer Finances.

Photographs and Cartoons

Photographs and cartoons serve both to draw the students in and to illustrate important concepts and principles. The seventh edition includes new photos and cartoons. Photo captions tie the photographs to the text; and cartoons, in addition to adding a light touch to the text and reinforcing important ideas, make points that can't be made any other way.

References

The seventh edition of *Sociology: The Core* presents new data and references throughout, including major updates in race and ethnicity; gender inequality; welfare reform and poverty; crime; wealth and income; and more. There are more than 250 new references, including articles from the major sociological journals, books, government documents and data sets, and popular media, most published in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. Full citations appear at the end of the text.

Changes in the Seventh Edition

While the seventh edition retains all the core information of the sixth edition, there are a number of significant additions and enhancements. The seventh edition:

- Incorporates new chapter openers designed to spark students' interest in the **group**, **gender**, and **race** chapters.
- Strengthens the focus on gender stratification as a structural feature of society with new information on the pay gap and a new box on state-by-state gender inequality in the **gender** chapter.
- Includes new sections on capital punishment and on technology and crime in the **deviance** chapter, along with a new box on race, crime, and punishment.
- Updates the debate on marriage and the traditional family with extensively revised sections on cohabitation and same-sex unions in the **family** chapter.
- Reviews new data on the state of public **education** in the U.S. and presents OECD international rankings of educational achievement.
- Updates the discussion of **stratification** with new wealth data from the most recent Federal Reserve Survey of Consumer

Finances and new information about poverty and welfare reform.

- Replaces the **social research** example for the discussion of the scientific method with a contemporary study of teen sexuality.
- Adds two new boxes in the **culture** chapter, one on culture in other primates and one on marking time in various cultures.
- Uses updated research findings on church attendance and on the importance of religion to individuals to illustrate the role **religion** plays in U.S. society.
- Discusses the current **health-care** crisis in the United States and includes a new box on the uninsured.
- Presents new data and information on CEO pay, the digital divide, and worker alienation, as well as a new box on “stealth democracy” in the **political and economic power** chapter.
- Substantially revises the discussion of the **environment** to include global warming, the exportation of toxic waste to other countries, and other current issues.
- Incorporates new data on **urbanization** and urban centers in developing nations and presents the concept of **population** momentum.
- Presents revised sections on terrorism and on collective behavior, along with new boxes on blogging and on same-sex marriage in the **social change** chapter.
- Focuses on the transition to adulthood with two new boxes in the **socialization** chapter and includes new material on TV violence and aggression, retirement, and death.
- Includes new information about teen and young adult drivers and about campus campaigns to curb substance abuse and a new social research box on reality TV and conformity in the **group** chapter.

Sociology: The Core was originally conceived and written by James W. Vander Zanden, and some of his work is retained in this seventh edition. However, he did not participate in this revision and is not responsible for any new material, changes, or additions in the seventh edition. Michael Hughes and Carolyn J. Kroehler are responsible for all of the revisions and changes in both the sixth and seventh editions.

Ancillary Materials

The seventh edition of *Sociology: The Core* is accompanied by a number of supplementary learning and teaching aids.

For the Student

Student's Online Learning Center (OLC)

The Online Learning Center website that accompanies this text offers a variety of resources for the student. In addition to various study tools, students will find chapter objectives, chapter outlines and overviews, interactive chapter quizzes, annotated lists of weblinks, Internet exercises, census updates, and flashcards of key terms. Please visit the *Sociology: The Core* OLC at www.mhhe.com/Hughes7.

PowerWeb

PowerWeb, a password-protected website, allows students to supplement their learning experience using Internet-based course materials. It includes current articles, curriculum-based materials, weekly updates with assessment, informative and timely world news, refereed weblinks, research tools, student study tools, interactive exercises, and more. For further information about PowerWeb, visit the following site: www.dushkin.com/powerweb.

Reel Society Interactive Movie CD-Rom

Available as a separate package option, this professionally produced movie on CD-Rom demonstrates the sociological imagination using actors in campus life scenarios. Each viewer takes on the role of one of the characters and influences key plot turns by making choices for them. Through it all, a wide variety of issues and perspectives are addressed relating major sociological concepts and theories to students' lives. Please go to www.mhhe.com/reelsoc for further details.

For the Instructor

The Instructor's Manual, Test Bank, Computerized Test Bank, and PowerPoints are available to instructors on the **Instructor's Resource CD-Rom (IRCD)**.

Instructor's Manual

The Instructor's Manual provides chapter summaries, chapter outlines, learning objectives, teaching suggestions and discussion questions, student exercises and projects, and suggested films/videos. The Instructor's Manual can also be downloaded from the Instructor's Online Learning Center.

Test Bank

The Test Bank offers 75 multiple-choice, 25 true-false, and 10 essay questions for each chapter in the text. The Test Bank can be downloaded as a Word file from the IRCD. It is also available on the IRCD as a **Computerized Test Bank**.

PowerPoint Slides

A collection of tables and figures from the text, augmented by additional graphics, allows instructors to add visual content to their lectures. The PowerPoints are also available on the Instructor's Online Learning Center.

Instructor's Online Learning Center (OLC)

Password-protected, the Instructor's side of the OLC contains a variety of resources, activities, and classroom tips. The Instructor's Manual, PowerPoint slides, and more can be accessed electronically on this site, www.mhhe.com/hughes7.

The Classroom Performance System (CPS)

This revolutionary wireless response system gives the instructor immediate feedback from every student in the class. CPS units include easy-to-use software for creating and delivering questions and assessments to your class. Each student simply responds with their individual wireless response pad, providing instant results. Suggested CPS questions specific to *Sociology: The Core, 7/e*, are available on the Instructor's Online Learning Center. CPS is the perfect tool for engaging students while gathering important assessment data. Go to www.mhhe.com/einstruction for further details.

PageOut: The Course Website Development Center

Online content for *Sociology: The Core* is supported by WebCT, eCollege.com, Blackboard, and other course management systems. Additionally, McGraw-Hill's PageOut service is available to help instructors get their course up and running online in a matter of hours, at no cost. [No programming knowledge is required.] When you use PageOut, your students have instant, 24-hour access to your course syllabus, lecture notes, assignments, and other original material. Students can even check their grades on-line. Material from the Online Learning Center (OLC) can be pulled into your website. PageOut also provides a discussion board

where you and your students can exchange questions and post announcements. To find out more about PageOut, ask your McGraw-Hill representative for details, or go to <http://www.mhhe.com/pageout>.

PowerWeb

See the description under “For the Student” above. For further information, visit the PowerWeb site at <http://www.dushkin.com/powerweb>.

Videos

Please contact your McGraw-Hill sales representative to learn about videos that are available to adopters of McGraw-Hill introductory sociology textbooks.