

# Preface

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Sociology has been my life's work for several decades. In the classroom and in the pages of my textbooks, I have tried to spark students' interest in the discipline by showing them its real-life implications. My aim has been to convince students that sociology is more than just another academic pursuit, an exercise in scholarship for the sake of scholarship. Sociology illuminates the world around us—our families, schools, neighborhoods, and other familiar institutions we have lived with all our lives. It puts into larger perspective our culture and our socialization—the way we come to be the way we are. Sociology makes us think deeply about the divide between ourselves and those of different races, classes, and ethnicities. It forces us to recognize the effects of power, technological advances, and the increasingly rapid process of social change on our own lives. Sociology matters—to you, me, and everyone with a stake in the society we live in.

This concise volume stresses the same theme, in fewer pages and with fewer illustrations and study aids. *Sociology Matters* is intended for instructors who desire an especially short, relatively inexpensive introductory text. This text covers the essential content in *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*, Sixth Edition, in much the same depth. Its 11 chapters can be covered easily in a quarter- or semester-long course, together with other materials instructors might wish to add.

## Major Emphases

Like the brief sixth edition of *Sociology*, this volume includes comprehensive, balanced coverage of the major theoretical perspectives. Chapter 1 introduces, defines, and contrasts the functionalist, conflict, and interactionist perspectives, as well as the increasingly important feminist approach. Later chapters use these distinctive viewpoints to explore topics such as deviance (Chapter 4); social stratification (Chapter 5); race and ethnicity (Chapter 6); gender (Chapter 7); social institutions (Chapters 8 and 9); communities, health, and the environment (Chapter 10); and social change (Chapter 11).

This volume also includes strong coverage of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. Three entire chapters are devoted to these topics: Chapter 5, on stratification in the United States and global inequality; Chapter 6, on race and ethnicity; and Chapter 7, on gender. Related discussions appear throughout the book. For instance, Chapter 3 examines

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race and gender as ascribed statuses; Chapter 4, racial profiling and the perceived seriousness of white-collar crime; Chapter 10, the connection between health and a person's social class, race, ethnicity, and gender; and Chapter 11, the role of gender in social movements.

Finally, this volume includes considerable cross-cultural coverage. Chapter 2, which opens with a vignette on technological and cultural change in Bhutan, covers the development of culture around the world. Chapter 4 covers international crime rates. Chapter 5 treats social stratification from a global perspective, including coverage of world systems analysis, dependency theory, modernization theory, the development of multinational corporations, and the global economy. Chapter 7 covers Margaret Mead's work on cross-cultural differences in gender roles. Chapter 8 takes a global view of the family. Chapter 10, which opens with a vignette on global population growth, treats global environmental issues. And Chapter 11 covers global social change.

### Special Features

This volume offers a variety of learning aids designed to help students understand and review basic concepts, including:

- Chapter outline
- Chapter-opening vignette with chapter overview
- *Use Your Sociological Imagination* sections, which prompt students to apply their knowledge of sociology to the world around them
- Tables and figures, some with sticker-style captions and Think About It questions
- Photographs and cartoons
- Online Learning Center icons, which alert students to relevant material on the book's companion website
- Boldfaced key terms
- *Sociology Matters* sections at the end of each chapter, which point out the relevance of a chapter's content to students' lives
- Numbered 10-point chapter summary
- End-of-chapter key terms list with page references
- End-of-book glossary with page references

### What's New in the Second Edition?

The most important changes in this edition include the following (refer as well to the chapter-by-chapter list of changes on pages x–xiii).

## CONTENT

- The chapter on social institutions has been split in two to allow for expanded coverage of family and religion (Chapter 8) as well as education and the economy (Chapter 9).
- Fifteen new key terms have been added, along with expanded coverage: *globalization* and the *life course approach* (Chapter 2); *collective decision making*, *minimal hierarchy*, and *work team* (Chapter 3); the *estate system* and the *feminization of poverty* (Chapter 5); *racial profiling* (Chapter 6); *religious belief*, *religious experience*, and *religious ritual* (Chapter 8); the *hidden curriculum*, *credentialism*, and *downsizing* (Chapter 9); and the *brain drain* (Chapter 10).
- Coverage of numerous other topics has been augmented or added, including: norms, values, and symbols (Chapter 2); the media as an agent of socialization (Chapter 2); immigration (Chapter 6); institutional discrimination (Chapter 6); urban growth and development (Chapter 10); the interactionist approach to physician training (Chapter 10); HIV/AIDS (Chapter 10); the technology gap between core and periphery nations (Chapter 11); and sex selection and human cloning (Chapter 11).

## PEDAGOGY

- Eleven new Summing Up tables pull together coverage of the major theoretical perspectives.
- Five new figures illustrate important sociological trends and developments.
- Two new chapter-opening passages spark student interest.
- Two new cartoons highlight sociological issues.
- A new *Use Your Sociological Imagination* exercise helps students to think like a sociologist.

## Supplements and Internet Resources

A wealth of complimentary teaching and learning resources is available to students and instructors who use *Sociology Matters*. Students will benefit from the free study aids and topical activities accessible to them at McGraw-Hill's website, [www.mhhe.com/schaeferm2](http://www.mhhe.com/schaeferm2). Among these features are:

- Student self-quizzes
- Internet Connection

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- Learning Objectives
- What Concept Am I? game
- Correlation guide to the *Reel Society* interactive movie CD-ROM, a supplementary program that uses actors and stories to bring basic sociological concepts to life

Instructors also have an Online Learning Center devoted to their needs. They may choose from the following resources:

- Instructor's Resource Manual
- Computerized Test Bank
- Instructor's Resource CD-ROM with Computerized Test Bank, including the Instructor's Resource Manual and PowerPoint slides
- Online Learning Center (includes quizzes, activities, and PowerPoint masters)
- Correlation guide to *Reel Society*, an interactive movie available on CD-ROM (can be used to stimulate classroom discussion of basic sociological concepts)
- Two hours of Video Lecture Launcher footage on two VHS tapes, drawn from the NBC News archives

## **What's New in Each Chapter?**

### **CHAPTER 1: THE SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW**

- Discussion of the decline in religious observance among young people in the United States
- Discussion of the different symbolic meanings of the Confederate flag
- Discussion of a study of violence in children's television programming as an example of the use of existing sources
- Summing Up table: "Major Research Designs"

### **CHAPTER 2: CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION**

- Updated chapter-opening vignette on the effect of television on Bhutan's culture
- Key term coverage of globalization
- Expanded coverage of norms, including changing norms regarding interracial marriage and Muslim norms regarding touching by strangers
- Expanded coverage of values, specifically changing values among college students

- Updated illustration of the argots spoken by subcultures: terms used by New York City sanitation workers
- Updated illustration of ethnocentrism: U.S. versus Iraqi attitudes regarding favoritism toward kin
- Summing Up table: “Major Theoretical Perspectives on Culture”
- Expanded coverage of symbols, specifically the controversy over the acceptability of the Muslim headscarf in French schools
- Key term coverage of the life course approach
- Expanded coverage of the media as an agent of socialization, specifically the role of the Internet in children’s socialization, with figure

### **CHAPTER 3: SOCIAL STRUCTURE, GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

- Application of the results of Zimbardo’s prison experiment to the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq
- Summing Up table: “Stages of Sociocultural Evolution”
- Revised and expanded section, “The Changing Workplace,” including key term coverage of collective decision making, minimal hierarchy, and work teams

### **CHAPTER 4: DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL**

- Chapter-opening vignette on backyard wrestling
- *Use Your Sociological Imagination* exercise on Merton’s theory of deviance
- Summing Up table: “Approaches to Deviance”
- Cartoon on white-collar crime

### **CHAPTER 5: STRATIFICATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBAL INEQUALITY**

- Key term coverage of the estate system
- Summing Up table: “Two Major Perspectives on Social Stratification”
- Figure: “Distribution of Income in the United States, 2002” (pyramid graph)
- Figure: “U.S. Minimum Wage Adjusted for Inflation, 1950–2002”
- Key term coverage of the feminization of poverty
- Discussion of the desperate economic situation in sub-Saharan Africa

## **CHAPTER 6: INEQUALITY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY**

- Discussion of the Immigration Control Act of 1986
- Cartoon on illegal immigration
- Key term coverage of racial profiling
- Summing Up table: “Sociological Perspectives on Race”
- Discussion of Devah Pager’s experiment on racial discrimination in employment
- Updated figure: “U.S. Median Income by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, 2003”
- Updated table: “Median Income by Race and Sex, Holding Education Constant, 2003”

## **CHAPTER 7: INEQUALITY BY GENDER**

- Chapter opening on the pervasive gender gap in median earnings in the United States
- Summing Up table: “Sociological Perspectives on Gender”
- Updated figure: “Trends in U.S. Women’s Participation in the Paid Labor Force”
- Updated table: “U.S. Women in Selected Occupations”
- Updated discussion of the double jeopardy of minority women, based on new income statistics

## **CHAPTER 8: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: FAMILY AND RELIGION**

- First of two separate chapters on social institutions
- Figure: “U.S. Households by Family Type, 1940–2003”
- Section on sociological views of the family (functionalist, conflict, interactionist, feminist)
- Summing Up table: “Sociological Perspectives on the Family”
- Section on religious behavior (belief, ritual, experience)
- Summing Up table: “Sociological Perspectives on Religion”

## **CHAPTER 9: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT, AND THE ECONOMY**

- Second of two separate chapters on social institutions
- Section on sociological perspectives on education (functionalist, conflict, interactionist)

- Summing Up table: “Sociological Perspectives on Education”
- Figure: “Power Elite Models” (Mills, Domhoff)
- Figure: “Racial and Ethnic Composition of the U.S. Labor Force, 1980 and 2020 (projection)”
- Expanded section on deindustrialization, including “offshoring,” or the outsourcing of office and professional jobs to foreign countries

## CHAPTER 10: POPULATION, COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Expanded discussion of the social consequences of rampant urban growth and development, illustrated by Las Vegas
- Key term coverage of the brain drain
- Discussion of how physicians learn their roles (interactionist approach)
- Expanded coverage of HIV/AIDS
- Updated figure: “Percentage of People without Health Insurance, 2003”

## CHAPTER 11: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, SOCIAL CHANGE, AND TECHNOLOGY

- Updated chapter-opening vignette on downloading of music from the Internet
- Summing Up table: “Contributions to Social Movement Theory”
- Expanded discussion of the gap in computer technology between core and periphery nations
- Discussion of the trend toward outsourcing of service and professional jobs to semiperiphery nations
- Discussion of sex selection of embryos prior to in vitro fertilization
- Discussion of legislation regarding human cloning

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### **Academic Reviewers**

Many sociologists reviewed this book and offered constructive and thorough evaluations of its content. I would like to thank the following reviewers for their thoughtful comments on the manuscript and its features:

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