Introduction to Sociology and Social Life Key terms

antipositivism	the status a person chooses, such as a level of education or income
achieved status	a collection of people who exist in the same place at the same time, but who don't interact or share a sense of identity
aggregate	societies that rely on farming as a way of life
agricultural societies	an individual's isolation from his society, his work, and his sense of self
alienation	a situation in which society no longer has the support of a firm collective consciousness
anomie	when we prepare for future life roles
anticipatory socialization	the view that social researchers should strive for subjectivity as they worked to represent social processes, cutrural norms, and societal values
ascribed status	the status outside of an individual's control, such as sex or race
authoritarian leader	a leader who issues orders and assigns tasks
beliefs	tenets or convictions that people hold to be true
bourgeoisie	the owners of the means of production in a society
bureaucracies	are formal organisations characterized by a hierarchy of authority, a clear division of labor, explicit rules, and why
cancer cluster	a geographic area with high levels of cancer within its population
carrying capacity	how many people can live in a given area considering the amount of available resources
category	people who share similar characteristics but who are not connected in any way
class consciousness	awareness of one's rank in society
clear division of labor	refers to the fact that each individual in a bureaucracy has a specialized task to perform
climate change	long-term shifts in temperature and climate due to human activity
coercive organizations	are organisations that people do not voluntarily join, such as prison or a mental hospital
collective conscience	the communal beliefs, morals, and attitudes of a society
concentric zone model	a model of human ecology that views cities as a series of circular rings or zones
conflict theory	a theory that looks at society as a competition for limited resources
conformity	the extent to which an individual complies with group or societal norms
cornucopian theory	theory which asserts that human ingenuity will rise to the challenge of providing

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	adequate resources for a growing population
countercultures	groups that reject and oppose society's widely accepted cultural patterns
cultural imperialism	the deliberate imposition of one's own cultural values on another culture
cultural relativism	the practice of assessing a culture by its own standards, and not in comparison to another culture
cultural universals	patterns or traits that are globally common to all societies
culture	shared beliefs, values, and practices
culture lag	the gap of time between the introduction of material culture and nonmaterial culture's acceptance of it
culture shock	an experience of personal disorientation when confronted with an unfamiliar way of life
degradation ceremony	the process by which new members of a total institution lose aspects of their old identity and are given new ones
democratic leader	a leader who encourages group participation and consensus-building before moving into action
demographic transition theory	theory that describes four stages of population growth, following patterns that connect birth and death rates with stages of industrial development
demography	the study of population
diffusion	the spread of material and nonmaterial culture from one culture to another
discoveries	things and ideas found from what already exists
dramaturgical analysis	a technique sociologists use in which they view society through the metaphor of theatrical performance
dyad	a two-member group
dynamic equilibrium	a stable state in which all parts of a healthy society are working together properly
dysfunctions	social patterns that have undesirable consequences for the operation of society
environmental racism	the way economically and socially disadvantaged communities are burdened with a disproportionate share of enviormental hazzards
environmental sociology	the sociological subfield that addresses the relationship between humans and the environment
ethnocentrism	to evaluate another culture according to the standards of one's own culture
e-waste	the disposal of broken, obsolete, and worn-out electronics
explicit rules	the types of rules in a bureaucracy; rules that are outlined, recorded, and standardized
expressive function	a group function that serves an emotional need
expressive leader	a leader who is concerned with process and with ensuring everyone's emotional wellbeing

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exurbs	communities that arise farther out than the suburbs and are typically populated by residents of high socioeconomic status
false consciousness	a person's beliefs and ideology are in conflict with her best interests
fertility rate	a measure noting the actual number of children born
feudal societies	societies that operate on a strict hierarchical system of power based around land ownership and protection
figuration	the process of simultaneously analyzing the behavior of an individual and the society that shapes that behavior
folkways	direct appropriate behavior in the day-to-day practices and expressions of a culture
formal norms	established, written rules
formal organizations	large, impersonal organisations
function	the part a recurrent activity plays in the social life as a whole and the contribution it makes to structural continuity
functionalism	a theoretical approach that sees society as a structure with interrelated parts designed to meet the biological and social needs of individuals that make up that societ
generalizability	the amount that information from a specific example can be generalized to apply to the overall population
generalized other	the common behavioral expectations of general society
gentrification	when upper- and middle-class residents enter certain city areas or communities that have been historically less affluent
globalization	the integration of international trade and finance markets
grand theories	attempts to explain large-scale relationships and answer fundamental questions such as why societies form and they change
group	any collection of at least two people who interact with some frequency and who share some sense of aligned identity
habitualization	the idea that society is constructed by us and those before us, and it is followed like a habit
hidden curriculum	the informal teaching done in schools that socializes children to societal norms
hierarchy of authority	a clear chain of command found in a bureaucracy
high culture	the cultural patterns of a society's elite
horticultural societies	societies based around the cultivation of plants
human ecology	a functional perspective that looks at the relationship between people and their built and natural environment
hunter-gatherer societies	societies that depend on hunting wild animals and gathering uncultivated plants for survival
ideal culture	consists of the standards a society would like to embrace and live up to

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impersonality	the removal of personal feelings from a professional situation
industrial societies	societies characterized by a reliance on mechanized labor to create material goods
informal norms	casual behaviors that are generally and widely conformed to
information societies	societies based on the production of nonmaterial goods and services
in-group	a group a person belongs to and feels is an integral part of his identity
innovations	new objects or ideas introduced to culture for the first time
institutionalization	the act of implanting a convention or norm into society
instrumental function	being oriented toward a task or goal
instrumental leader	a leader who is goal oriented with a primary focus on accomplishing tasks
inventions	a combination of pieces of existing reality into new forms
iron cage	a situation in which an individual is trapped by social institutions
Iron Rule of Oligarchy	the theory that an organisation is ruled by a few elites rather than through collaboration
laissez-faire leader	a hands-off leader who allows members of the group to make their own decisions
language	a symbolic system of communication
latent functions	the unrecognized or unintended consequences of a social process
leadership function	the main focus or goal of a leader
leadership style	the style a leader uses to achieve goals or elicit action from group members
looking-glass self	our reflection of how we think we appear to others
macro-level	a wide-scale view of the role of social structures within a society
Malthusian theory	theory which asserts that population is controlled through positive checks (war, famine, disease) and prevent active checks (measures to reduce fertility)
manifest functions	sought consequences of a social process
material culture	the objects or belongings of a group of people
McDonaldization	the increasing presence of the fast food business model in common social institutions
mechanical solidarity	a type of social order maintained by the collective consciousness of a culture
megalopolis	a large urban corridor that encompasses several cities and their surrounding suburbs and exurbs
meritocracy	a bureaucracy where membership and advancement is based on merit—proven and documented skills
metropolis	the area that includes a city and its suburbs and exurbs
micro-level theories	the study of specific relationships between individuals or small groups
moral development	the way people learn what is "good" and "bad" in society

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mores	the moral views and principles of a group
mortality rate	a measure of the number of people who die
nature	the influence of our genetic makeup on self-development
NIMBY	"Not in My Back Yard," describing the tendency of people to protest poor environmental practices when those practices will impact them directly
nonmaterial culture	the ideas, attitudes, and beliefs of a society
normative or voluntary organizations	organisations that people join to pursue shared interests or because they provide some intangible rewards
norms	the visible and invisible rules of conduct through which societies are structured
nurture	the role that our social environment plays in self-development
organic solidarity	a type of social order based around an acceptance of economic and social differences
out-group	a group that an individual is not a member of, and may even compete with
paradigms	philosophical and theoretical frameworks used within a discipline to formulate theories, generalisations, and the experiments performed in support of them
pastoral societies	societies based around the domestication of animals
peer group	a group made up of people who are similar in age and social status and who share interests
pollution	when contaminants are introduced into an environment at levels that are damaging
popular culture	mainstream, widespread patterns among a society's population
population composition	a snapshot of the demographic profile of a population based on fertility, mortality, and migration rates
population pyramid	graphic representation that depicts population distribution according to age and sex
positivism	the scientific study of social patterns
primary groups	small, informal groups of people who are closest to us
proletariat	the laborers in a society
qualitative sociology	in-depth interviews, focus groups, and/or analysis of content sources as the source of its data
quantitative sociology	statistical methods such as s urveys with large numbers of participants
rationalization	a belief that modern society should be built around logic and efficiency rather than morality or tradition
real culture	the way society really is based on what actually occurs and exists
reference groups	groups to which an individual compares herself
resocialization	the process by which old behaviors are removed and new behaviors are learned in their place

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role conflict	when one or more of an individual's roles clash
role performance	the expression of a role
role strain	stress that occurs when too much is required of a single role
roles	patterns of behavior that are representative of a person's social status
role-set	an array of roles attached to a particular status
sanctions	a way to authorize or formally disapprove of certain behaviors
Sapir-Whorf hypothesis	people understand the world based on their form of language
secondary groups	larger and more impersonal groups that are task-focused and time limited
self	a person's distinct sense of identity as developed through social interaction
self-fulfilling prophecy	an idea that becomes true when acted upon
sex ratio	the ratio of men to women in a given population
social control	a way to encourage conformity to cultural norms
social facts	the laws, morals, values, religious beliefs, customs, fashions, rituals, and all of the cultural rules that govern social life
social integration	how strongly a person is connected to his or her social group
social solidarity	the social ties that bind a group of people together such as kinship, shared location, and religion
socialization	the process wherein people come to understand societal norms and expectations, to accept society's beliefs, and to be aware of societal values
society	people who live in a definable community and who share a culture
sociological imagination	the ability to understand how your own past relates to that of other people, as well as to history in general and societal structures in particular
sociology	is the systematic study of society and social interaction
status	the responsibilities and benefits that a person experiences according to their rank and role in society
subcultures	groups that share a specific identification, apart from a society's majority, even as the members exist within a larger society
suburbs	the communities surrounding cities, typically close enough for a daily commute
symbolic interactionism	a theoretical perspective through which scholars examine the relationship of individuals within their society by studying their communication (language and symbols)
symbols	gestures or objects that have meanings associated with them that are recognized by people who share a culture
theory	a proposed explanation about social interactions or society
Thomas theorem	how a subjective reality can drive events to develop in accordance with that reality,

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	despite being originallyy unsupported by objective reality
total institution	an organisation in which participants live a controlled lifestyle and in which total resocialisation occurs
triad	a three-member group
urban sociology	the subfield of sociology that focuses on the study of urbanisation
urbanization	the study of the social, political, and economic relationships of cities
utilitarian organizations	organisations that are joined to fill a specific material need
values	a culture's standard for discerning what is good and just in society
verstehen	a German word that means to understand in a deep way
white flight	the migration of economically secure white people from racially mixed urban areas toward the suburbs
xenocentrism	a belief that another culture is superior to one's own
zero population growth	a theoretical goal in which the number of people entering a population through birth or immigration is equal to the number of people leaving it via death or emigration