

**Marginally attached to the labor force:** Persons who would like to work and have searched actively for a job in the past 12 months.

**Marriage:** A culturally approved relationship, usually between two individuals, that provides a degree of economic cooperation, emotional intimacy, and sexual activity.

**Mass education:** The extension of formal schooling to wide segments of the population.

**Mass media:** Media of public communication intended to reach and influence a mass audience.

**Mass production:** The large-scale, highly standardized manufacturing of identical commodities on a mechanical assembly line.

**Material culture:** The physical objects that are created, embraced, or consumed by society that help shape people's lives.

**Matrix of domination:** A system of social positions in which any individual may concurrently occupy a status (for example, gender, race, class, or sexual orientation) as a member of a dominated group and a status as a member of a dominating group.

**Me:** According to George Herbert Mead, the part of the self through which we see ourselves as others see us.

**Means of production:** The sites and technology that produce the goods we need and use.

**Meritocracy:** A society in which personal success is based on talent and individual effort.

**Microlevel paradigm:** A theory of the social world that is concerned with small-group social relations and interactions.

**Minorities:** Less powerful groups who are dominated by a more powerful group and, often, discriminated against on the basis of characteristics deemed by the majority to be socially significant.

**Mixed contacts:** Interactions between those who are stigmatized and those who are "normal."

**Modernization theory:** A market-oriented development theory that envisions development as evolutionary and guided by "modern" institutions, practices, and cultures.

**Monogamy:** A form of marriage in which a person may have only one spouse at a time.

**Mores:** Strongly held norms, the violation of which seriously offends the standards of acceptable conduct of most people within a particular culture.

**Multicultural feminism:** The belief that inequality must be understood—and ended—for all women, regardless of race, class, nationality, age, sexual orientation, physical ability, or other characteristics.

**Multiculturalism:** A commitment to respecting cultural differences rather than trying to submerge them into a larger, dominant culture.

**Negative correlation:** A relation between two variables in which one increases as the other decreases.

**Net financial assets:** A measure of wealth that excludes illiquid personal assets, such as home and car.

**New social movements:** Movements that have arisen since the 1960s and are fundamentally concerned with the quality of private life, often advocating large-scale cultural changes in how people think and act.

**Nonmaterial culture:** The abstract creations of human cultures, including language and social practices.

**Normative organizations (or voluntary associations):** Organizations that people join of their own will to pursue morally worthwhile goals without expectation of material reward; sometimes called *voluntary associations*.

**Norms:** Accepted social behaviors and beliefs.

**Not in the labor force:** Persons who are neither officially employed nor officially unemployed.

**Nuclear families:** Social groups consisting of one or two parents and their biological, dependent children, living in a household with no other kin.

**Objectivity:** The ability to represent the object of study accurately.

**Occupation:** A person's main vocation or paid employment.

**Occupational segregation by gender:** The concentration of men and women in different occupations.

**Official poverty line:** The dollar amount set by the government as the minimum necessary to meet the basic needs of a family.

**Operational definition:** A definition of a concept that allows the concept to be observed and measured.

**Opportunity theory:** The theory that people differ not only in their motivations to engage in deviant acts but also in their *opportunities* to do so.

**Organization:** A group with an identifiable membership that engages in concerted collective actions to achieve a common purpose.

**Organized crime:** Crime committed by criminal groups that provide illegal goods and services.

**Panic:** A massive flight from something that is feared.

**Patriarchy:** Any set of social relationships in which men dominate women.

**Personal power:** Power that derives from a leader's personality.

**Phrenology:** A theory that the skull shapes of deviant individuals differ from those of nondeviants.

**Pluralistic societies:** Societies made up of many diverse groups with different norms and values.

**Political power:** The ability to exercise influence on political institutions and/or actors to realize personal or group interests.

**Polyandry:** A form of marriage in which a woman may have multiple husbands.

**Polygamy:** A form of marriage in which a person may have more than one spouse at a time.

**Polygyny:** A form of marriage in which a man may have multiple wives.

**Popular culture:** The entertainment, culinary, and athletic tastes shared by the masses.

**Population:** The whole group of people studied in sociological research.

**Positional power:** Power that stems officially from the leadership position itself.

**Positive correlation:** A relationship showing that as one variable rises or falls, the other does as well.

**Positivism:** An approach to research that is based on scientific evidence.

**Power:** The ability to mobilize resources and achieve goals despite the resistance of others.

**Prejudice:** A belief about an individual or a group that is not subject to change on the basis of evidence.

**Presentation of self:** The creation of impressions in the minds of others to define and control social situations.

**Primary deviance:** A term developed by Edwin Lemert; the first step in the labeling of deviance, it occurs at the moment an activity is labeled deviant (see also *secondary deviance*).

**Primary groups:** Small groups characterized by intense emotional ties, face-to-face interaction, intimacy, and a strong, enduring sense of commitment.

**Principle of falsification (or falsifiability):** The principle, advanced by philosopher Karl Popper, that a scientific theory must lead to testable hypotheses that can be disproved if they are wrong.

**Proletariat:** The working class; wage workers.

**Property crimes:** Crimes that involve the violation of individuals' ownership rights, including burglary, larceny/theft, arson, and motor vehicle theft.

**Psychoanalysis:** A psychological perspective that emphasizes the complex reasoning processes of the conscious and unconscious mind.

**Public education:** A universal education system provided by the government and funded by tax revenues rather than student fees.

**Qualitative research:** Research that is characterized by data that cannot be quantified (or converted into numbers), focusing instead on generating in-depth knowledge of social life, institutions, and processes.

**Qualitative variables:** Variables that express qualities and do not have numerical values.

**Quantitative research:** Research that gathers data that can be quantified and offers insight into broad patterns of social behavior and social attitudes.

**Quantitative variables:** Factors that can be counted.

**Race:** A group of people who share a set of characteristics (usually physical characteristics) deemed by society to be socially significant.

**Racism:** The idea that one racial group is inherently superior to another; often results in institutionalized relationships between dominant and minority groups that create a structure of economic, social, and political inequality based on socially constructed racial or ethnic categories.

**Radical feminism:** The belief that women's inequality underlies all other forms of inequality, including economic inequality.

**Random sampling:** Sampling in which everyone in the population of interest has an equal chance of being chosen for the study.

**Rape culture:** A social culture that provides an environment conducive to rape.

**Reactionary social movements:** Movements seeking to restore an earlier social system—often based on a mythical past—along with the traditional norms and values that once presumably accompanied it.

**Real culture:** The values, norms, and behaviors that people in a given society actually embrace and exhibit.

**Rebellions:** Movements seeking to overthrow the existing social, political, and economic systems but lacking detailed plans for a new social order.

**Reference groups:** Groups that provide standards for judging our attitudes or behaviors.

**Reformist social movements:** Movements seeking to bring about social change within the existing economic and political system.

**Reliability:** The extent to which researchers' findings are consistent with the findings of different studies of the same thing or with the findings of the same study over time.

**Replication:** The repetition of a previous study using a different sample or population to verify or refute the original findings.

**Research methods:** Specific techniques for systematically gathering data.

**Reserve army of labor:** A pool of job seekers whose numbers outpace the available positions and thus contribute to keeping wages low and conditions of work tenuous.

**Resocialization:** The process of altering an individual's behavior through control of his or her environment, for example, within a total institution.

**Resource mobilization theory:** A theory about social-movement organizations that focuses on their ability to generate money, membership, and political support in order to achieve their objectives.

**Restrictive covenants:** Contractual agreements that restrict the use of land, ostensibly in order to preserve the value of adjacent land or a neighborhood.

**Revolutionary social movements:** Movements seeking to fundamentally alter the existing social, political, and economic system in keeping with a vision of a new social order.

**Riot:** An illegal, prolonged outbreak of violent behavior by a sizable group of people directed against people or property.

**Rise-and-fall theories of social change:** Theories that see social change as characterized by a cycle of growth and decline.

**Role-taking:** The ability to take the roles of others in interaction.

**Rumors:** Unverified forms of information that are transmitted informally, usually originating in unknown sources.

**Sample:** A portion of the larger population selected to represent the whole.

**School segregation:** The education of racial minorities in schools that are geographically, economically, and/or socially separated from those attended by Whites.

**School-to-prison pipeline:** The policies and practices that push students, particularly at-risk youth, out of schools and into the criminal justice system.

**Scientific:** A way of learning about the world that combines logically constructed theory and systematic observation.

**Scientific management:** A practice that sought to use principles of engineering to reduce the physical movements of workers.

**Scientific method:** A way of learning about the world that combines logically constructed theory and systematic observation to provide explanations of how things work.

**Scientific theories:** Explanations of how and why scientific observations are as they are.

**Second shift:** The unpaid housework that women typically do after they come home from their paid employment.

**Secondary deviance:** A term developed by Edwin Lemert; the second step in the labeling of deviance, it occurs when a person labeled deviant accepts the label as part of his or her identity and, as a result, begins to act in conformity with the label (see also *primary deviance*).

**Secondary groups:** Groups that are large and impersonal and characterized by fleeting relationships.

**Segregation:** The practice of separating people spatially or socially on the basis of race or ethnicity.

**Serial monogamy:** The practice of having more than one wife or husband, but only one at a time.

**Services:** Economically productive activities that do not result directly in physical products; may be relatively simple or quite complex.

**Sex:** The anatomical and other biological characteristics that differ between males and females and that originate in genetic differences.

**Sex category:** The socially required identification display that confirms someone's membership in a given category.

**Sexism:** The belief that one sex is innately superior to the other and is therefore justified in having a dominant social position.

**Sexual division of labor in modern societies:** The phenomenon of dividing production functions by gender and designating different spheres of activity, the "private" to women and the "public" to men.

**Sexuality:** The ways in which people construct their sexual identity, attraction, and relationships, including the norms governing sexual behavior.

**Significant others:** According to George Herbert Mead, the specific people who are important in children's lives and whose views have the greatest impact on the children's self-evaluations.

**Social bonds:** Individuals' connections to others (see also *control theory*).

**Social capital:** The social knowledge and connections that enable people to accomplish their goals and extend their influence.

**Social categories:** Categories of people sharing common characteristics without necessarily interacting or identifying with one another.

**Social class reproduction:** The way in which class status is reproduced from generation to generation, with parents "passing on" a class position to their offspring.

**Social closure:** The ability of a group to strategically and consciously exclude outsiders or those deemed "undesirable" from participating in the group or enjoying the group's resources.

**Social conflict paradigm:** A theory that seeks to explain social organization and change in terms of the conflict that is built into social relations; also known as *conflict theory*.

**Social control:** The attempts by certain people or groups in society to control the behaviors of other individuals and groups to increase the likelihood that they will conform to established norms or laws.

**Social desirability bias:** A response bias based on the tendency of respondents to answer a question in a way they perceive will be favorably received.

**Social diversity:** The social and cultural mixture of different groups in society and the societal recognition of difference as significant.

**Social dynamics:** The laws that govern social change.

**Social embeddedness:** The idea that economic, political, and other forms of human behavior are fundamentally shaped by social relations.

**Social epidemiology:** The study of communities and their social statuses, practices, and problems with the aim of understanding patterns of health and disease.

**Social facts:** Qualities of groups that are external to individual members yet constrain their thinking and behavior.

**Social inequality:** A high degree of disparity in income, wealth, power, prestige, and other resources.

**Social learning:** The way people adapt their behavior in response to social rewards and punishments.

**Social mobility:** The upward or downward status movement of individuals or groups over time.

**Social movement:** A large number of people who come together in a continuing and organized effort to bring about (or resist) social change and who rely, at least partially, on non-institutionalized forms of political action.

**Social-movement organizations (SMOs):** Formal organizations that seek to achieve social change through noninstitutionalized forms of political action.

**Social power:** The ability to exercise social control.

**Social solidarity:** The bonds that unite the members of a social group.

**Social statics:** The way society is held together.

**Social stratification:** The systematic ranking of different groups of people in a hierarchy of inequality.

**Socialist feminism:** The belief that women's inequality results from the combination of capitalistic economic relations and male domination; argues that both must be transformed fundamentally before women can achieve equality.

**Socialization:** The process by which people learn the culture of their society.

**Sociological imagination:** The ability to grasp the relationship between individual lives and the larger social forces that help to shape them.

**Sociological theories:** Logical, rigorous frameworks for the interpretation of social life that make particular assumptions and ask particular questions about the social world.

**Sociology:** The scientific study of human social relations, groups, and societies.

**Spurious relationship:** A correlation between two or more variables that is the result of something else that is not being measured, rather than a causal link between the variables themselves.

**Standpoint epistemology:** A philosophical perspective that argues that what we can know is affected by the position we occupy in society.

**Standpoint theory:** A perspective that says the knowledge we create is conditioned by where we stand, or our subjective social position.

**State crimes:** Criminal or other harmful acts committed by state officials in the pursuit of their jobs as representatives of the government.

**Statistical data:** Quantitative information obtained from government agencies, businesses, research studies, and other entities that collect data for their own or others' use.

**Status:** The prestige associated with a social position.

**Stereotype threat:** A situation in which an individual is at risk of confirming a negative stereotype about his or her social group.

**Stereotyping:** The generalization of a set of characteristics to all members of a group.

**Stigma:** An attribute that is deeply discrediting to an individual or a group because it overshadows other attributes and merits the individual or group may possess.

**Stigmatization:** The branding of behavior as highly disgraceful (see also *labeling theory*).

**Strain theory:** The theory that when there is a discrepancy between the cultural goals for success and the means available to achieve those goals, rates of deviance will be high.

**Stratified sampling:** Dividing a population into a series of subgroups and taking random samples from within each group.

**Structural contradiction theory:** The theory that conflicts generated by fundamental contradictions in the structure of society produce laws defining certain acts as deviant or criminal.

**Structural functionalism:** A theory that seeks to explain social organization and change in terms of the roles performed by different social structures, phenomena, and institutions; also known as *functionalism*.

**Structural strain:** In Merton's reformulation of Durkheim's functionalist theory, a form of anomie that occurs when a gap exists between society's culturally defined goals and the means society makes available to achieve those goals.

**Structuralism:** The idea that an overarching structure exists within which culture and other aspects of society must be understood.

**Structure:** Patterned social arrangements that have effects on agency.

**Subcultural theories:** Theories that explain deviance in terms of the conflicting interests of more and less powerful segments of a population.

**Subcultures:** Cultures that exist together with a dominant culture but differ in some important respects from that dominant culture.

**Superego:** According to Sigmund Freud, the part of the mind that consists of the values and norms of society, insofar as they are internalized, or taken in, by the individual.

**Survey:** A research method that uses a questionnaire or interviews administered to a group of people in person or by telephone or e-mail to determine their characteristics, opinions, and behaviors.

**Symbolic interactionism:** A microsociological perspective that posits that both the individual self and society as a whole are the products of social interactions based on language and other symbols.

**Symbols:** Representations of things that are not immediately present to our senses.

**Taboos:** Powerful mores, the violation of which is considered serious and even unthinkable within a particular culture.

**“Three strikes” laws:** State and federal laws that sentence an individual to life in prison who has been found guilty of committing three felonies, or serious crimes punishable by a minimum of a year in prison.

**Total fertility rate (TFR):** The average number of children a woman in a given country will have in her lifetime if age-specific fertility rates hold throughout her childbearing years.

**Total institutions:** Institutions that isolate individuals from the rest of society to achieve administrative control over most aspects of their lives.

**Transactional leader:** A leader who is primarily concerned with accomplishing the group’s tasks, getting group members to do their jobs, and making certain that the group achieves its goals.

**Transformational leader:** A leader who is able to instill in the members of a group a sense of mission or higher purpose, thereby changing the nature of the group itself.

**Transgender:** An umbrella term used to describe those whose gender identity, expression, or behavior differs from their assigned sex or is outside the gender binary.

**Triad:** A group consisting of three persons.

**Underemployed:** Working in jobs that do not make full use of one’s skills or working part time when one would like to be working full time.

**Unemployed:** Persons who are jobless, actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are available for work.

**Utilitarian organizations:** Organizations that people join primarily because of some material benefit they expect to receive in return for membership.

**Utopian social movements:** Movements seeking to withdraw from the dominant society by creating their own ideal communities.

**Validity:** The degree to which concepts and their measurements accurately represent what they claim to represent.

**Value neutrality:** The characteristic of being free of personal beliefs and opinions that would influence the course of research.

**Values:** The general standards in society that define ideal principles, like those governing notions of right and wrong.

**Variable:** A concept or its empirical measure that can take on multiple values.

**Verstehen:** The German word for interpretive understanding; Weber’s proposed methodology for explaining social relationships by having the sociologist imagine how subjects might perceive a situation.

**Violent crimes:** Crimes that involve force or threat of force, including robbery, murder, assault, and rape.

**“War on drugs”:** Actions taken by U.S. state and federal governments that are intended to curb the illegal drug trade and reduce drug use.

**Wealth (or net worth):** The value of everything a person owns minus the value of everything he or she owes.

**White-collar crime:** Crime committed by people of high social status in connection with their work.

**World systems theory:** The theory that the global capitalist economic system has long been shaped by a few powerful economic actors, who have ordered it in a way that favors their interests.

**Zero-tolerance policies:** School or district policy that sets predetermined punishments for certain misbehaviors and punishes the same way no matter the severity or the context of the behavior.

**Achieved status:** Social position linked to an individual's acquisition of socially valued credentials or skills.

**Agency:** The ability of individuals and groups to exercise free will and to make social changes on a small or large scale.

**Alliance (or coalition):** A subgroup that forms between group members, enabling them to dominate the group in their own interest.

**Anomie:** A social condition of normlessness; a state of normative uncertainty that occurs when people lose touch with the shared rules and values that give order and meaning to their lives.

**Anticipatory socialization:** Adoption of the behaviors or standards of a group one emulates or hopes to join.

**Antimiscegenation laws:** Laws prohibiting interracial sexual relations and marriage.

**Ascribed status:** Social position linked to characteristics that are socially significant but cannot generally be altered (such as race or gender).

**Assimilation:** The absorption of a minority group into the dominant culture.

**Atavisms:** Throwbacks to primitive early humans.

**Automation:** The replacement of human labor by machines in the production process.

**Behaviorism:** A psychological perspective that emphasizes the effect of rewards and punishments on human behavior.

**Beliefs:** Particular ideas that people accept as true.

**Bias:** A characteristic of results that systematically misrepresent the true nature of what is being studied.

**Bourgeoisie:** The capitalist (or property-owning) class.

**Bureaucracies:** Formal organizations characterized by written rules, hierarchical authority, and paid staff, intended to promote organizational efficiency.

**Capital crime:** Crimes, such as murder, which are severe enough to merit the death penalty.

**Capital offenses:** Crimes considered so heinous they are punishable by death.

**Caste society:** A system in which the social levels are closed, so that all individuals remain at the social level of their birth throughout life.

**Causal relationship:** A relationship between two variables in which one variable is the cause of the other.

**Class:** A person's economic position in society, usually associated with income, wealth, and occupation, and sometimes associated with political voice.

**Class conflict:** Competition between social classes over the distribution of wealth, power, and other valued resources in society.

**Class-dominant theories:** Theories that propose that what is labeled deviant or criminal—and therefore who gets punished—is determined by the interests of the dominant class in a particular culture or society.

**Class society:** A system in which social mobility allows an individual to change his or her socioeconomic position.

**Coercive organizations:** Organizations in which people are forced to give unquestioned obedience to authority.

**Cognitive development:** The theory, developed by Jean Piaget, that an individual's ability to make logical decisions increases as the person grows older.

**Cohabitation:** Living together as a couple without being legally married.

**Collective behavior:** Voluntary, goal-oriented action that occurs in relatively disorganized situations in which society's predominant social norms and values cease to govern individual behavior.

**Collective conscience:** The common beliefs and values that bind a society together.

**Common-law marriage:** A type of relationship in which partners live as if married but without marriage's formal legal framework.

**Concepts:** Ideas that describe several things that have something in common.

**Conscience constituents:** People who provide resources for a social movement organization but who are not themselves members of the aggrieved group that the organization champions.

**Control theory:** The theory that the cause of deviance lies in the arena of social control and, specifically, the life experiences and relationships that people form.

**Conversation analysis:** The study of how participants in social interaction recognize and produce coherent conversation.

**Correlation:** The degree to which two or more variables are associated with one another.

**Craze:** An intense attraction to an object, a person, or an activity.

**Credential society:** A society in which access to desirable work and social status depends on the possession of a certificate or diploma certifying the completion of formal education.

**Crime:** Any act defined in the law as punishable by fines, imprisonment, or both.

**Critical thinking:** The ability to evaluate claims about truth by using reason and evidence.

**Crowds:** Temporary gatherings of closely interacting people with a common focus.

**Cultural capital:** Wealth in the form of knowledge, ideas, verbal skills, and ways of thinking and acting.

**Cultural inconsistency:** A contradiction between the goals of ideal culture and the practices of real culture.

**Cultural pluralism:** The coexistence of different racial and ethnic groups, characterized by acceptance of one another's differences.

**Cultural relativism:** A worldview whereby the practices of a society are understood sociologically in terms of that society's norms and values and not the norms and values of another society.

**Culture:** The beliefs, norms, behaviors, and products common to the members of a particular group.

**De facto segregation:** School segregation based largely on residential patterns or student choice, which persists even though legal segregation is now outlawed in the United States.

**Deductive reasoning:** The process of taking an existing theory and logically deducing that if the theory is accurate, we should discover other patterns of behavior consistent with it.

**Dependency theory:** The theory that the poverty of some countries is a consequence of their exploitation by wealthy states, which control the global capitalist system.

**Dependent variables:** Variables that change as a result of changes in other variables.

**Deviance:** Any attitude, behavior, or condition that violates cultural norms or societal laws and results in disapproval, hostility, or sanction if it becomes known.

**Differential association theory:** The theory that deviant and criminal behavior results from regular exposure to attitudes favorable to acting in ways that are deviant or criminal.

**Differentiation:** The development of increasing societal complexity through the creation of specialized social roles and institutions.

**Discrimination:** The unequal treatment of individuals on the basis of their membership in a group.

**Document analysis:** The examination of written materials or cultural products: previous studies, newspaper reports, court records, campaign posters, digital reports, films, pamphlets, and other forms of text or images produced by individuals, government agencies, or private organizations.

**Domestic (or family) violence:** Physical or sexual abuse committed by one family member against another.

**Double consciousness:** Among African Americans, an awareness of being both American and Black, never free of racial stigma.

**Doxic:** Taken for granted as "natural" or "normal" in society.

**Dramaturgical approach:** Developed by Erving Goffman, the study of social interaction as if it were governed by the norms of theatrical performance.

**Dyad:** A group consisting of two persons.

**Economic capital:** Money and material that can be used to access valued goods and services.

**Economy:** The social institution that organizes the ways in which a society produces, distributes, and consumes goods and services.

**Education:** The transmission of society's norms, values, and knowledge base by means of direct instruction.

**Ego:** According to Sigmund Freud, the part of the mind that is the "self," the core of what is regarded as a person's unique personality.

**Egocentric:** Experiencing the world as if it were centered entirely on oneself.

**Emergent norms:** Norms that are situationally created to support a collective action.

**Emic perspective:** The perspective of the insider, the one belonging to the cultural group in question.

**Emotional labor:** The management of feelings or emotions to create a publicly observable facial and bodily display in return for a wage.

**Endogamous:** A characteristic of marriages in which partners are limited to members of the same social group or caste.

**Ethnicity:** Characteristics of groups associated with national origins, languages, and cultural and religious practices.

**Ethnocentrism:** A worldview whereby one judges other cultures by the standards of one's own culture and regards one's own way of life as "normal" and better than others.

**Ethnomethodology:** A sociological method used to study the body of commonsense knowledge and procedures by

which ordinary members of a society make sense of their social circumstances and interaction.

**Etic perspective:** The perspective of the outside observer.

**Experiments:** Research techniques for investigating cause and effect under controlled conditions.

**Expulsion:** The process of forcibly removing a population from a particular area.

**Extended families:** Social groups consisting of one or more parents, children, and other kin, often spanning several generations, living in the same household.

**Fads:** Temporary, highly imitated outbreaks of mildly unconventional behavior.

**Falsifiability:** The ability for a theory to be disproved; the logical possibility for a theory to be tested and proved false.

**Family:** Two or more individuals who identify themselves as being related to one another, usually by blood, marriage, or adoption, and who share intimate relationships and dependency.

**Fashions:** Styles of imitative behavior or appearance that are of longer duration than fads.

**Feminism:** The belief that social equality should exist between the sexes; also, the social movements aimed at achieving that goal.

**Feminist perspective on deviance:** A perspective that suggests that studies of deviance have been subject to gender bias and that both gender-specific cultural norms and the particular ways in which women are victimized by virtue of their gender help to account for deviance among women.

**Fieldwork:** A research method that relies on in-depth and often extended study of a group or community.

**Folkways:** Fairly weak norms that are passed down from the past, the violation of which is generally not considered serious within a particular culture.

**Food deserts:** Areas that lack sources of competitively priced healthy and fresh food.

**Formal education:** Education that occurs within academic institutions such as schools.

**Formal organization:** An organization that is rationally designed to achieve its objectives, often by means of explicit rules, regulations, and procedures.

**Formal rationality:** A context in which people's pursuit of goals is shaped by rules, regulations, and larger social structures.

**Formal social control:** Official attempts to discourage certain behaviors and visibly punish others; most often exercised by the state.

**Foster care:** A situation in which a child is cared for by people who are not his or her parents for either a brief or extended period of time.

**Frame alignment:** The process by which the interests, understandings, and values of a social-movement organization are rendered congruent with those of the wider society.

**Free-rider problem:** The problem that many people avoid the costs of social-movement activism (such as time, energy, and other personal resources) and still benefit from its success.

**Gender:** Behavioral characteristics that differ between males and females based on culturally enforced and socially learned norms and roles.

**Gender roles:** The attitudes and behaviors that are considered appropriately "masculine" or "feminine" in a particular culture.

**Gender wage gap:** The difference between the earnings of women who work full-time year-round as a group and those of men who work full-time year-round as a group.

**Generalized other:** The abstract sense of society's norms and values by which people evaluate themselves.

**Genocide:** The mass, systematic destruction of a people or a nation.

**Glass ceiling:** An artificial boundary that allows women to see the next occupational or salary level even as structural obstacles keep them from reaching it.

**Glass escalator:** The nearly invisible promotional boost that men gain in female-dominated occupations.

**Global culture:** A type of culture—some would say U.S. culture—that has spread across the world in the form of Hollywood films, fast-food restaurants, and popular music heard in virtually every country.

**Global inequality:** The systematic disparities in income, wealth, health, education, access to technology, opportunity, and power among countries, communities, and households around the world.

**Globalization:** The process by which people all over the planet become increasingly interconnected economically, politically, culturally, and environmentally.

**Goods:** Objects that have an economic value to others, whether they are the basic necessities for survival or things that people simply want.

**Grassroots organizing:** Attempts to mobilize support among the ordinary members of a community.

**Gross national income–purchasing power parity per capita (GNI-PPP):** A comparative economic measure that uses international dollars to indicate the amount of goods and services someone could buy in the United States with a given amount of money.

**Groupthink:** A process by which the members of a group ignore ways of thinking and plans of action that go against the group consensus.

**Habitus:** The internalization of objective probabilities and subsequent expression of those probabilities as choice.

**Hidden curriculum:** The unspoken classroom socialization into the norms, values, and roles of a society that schools provide along with the “official” curriculum.

**High culture:** The music, theater, literature, and other cultural products that are held in particularly high esteem in society.

**Human capital:** The skills and knowledge a person possesses that make him or her valuable in a particular workplace.

**Hypotheses:** Ideas about the world, derived from theories, which can be disproved when tested against observations.

**I:** According to George Herbert Mead, the part of the self that is the impulse to act; it is creative, innovative, unthinking, and largely unpredictable.

**Id:** According to Sigmund Freud, the part of the mind that is the repository of basic biological drives and needs.

**Ideal culture:** The values, norms, and behaviors that people in a given society profess to embrace.

**Income:** The amount of money a person or household earns in a given period of time.

**Independent or experimental variables:** Variables that cause changes in other variables.

**Indirect labor costs:** Costs in time, training, or money incurred when an employee takes time off to care for sick family members, opts for parental leave, arrives at work late, or leaves a position after receiving employer-provided training.

**Individual discrimination:** Overt and intentional unequal treatment, often based on prejudicial beliefs.

**Inductive reasoning:** The process of generalizing to an entire category of phenomena from a particular set of observations.

**Inequality:** Differences in wealth, power, and other valued resources.

**Infant mortality rate:** The number of deaths of infants younger than age 1 per 1,000 live births per year.

**Informal social control:** The unofficial mechanism through which deviance and deviant behaviors are discouraged in society; most often occurs among ordinary people during the course of their interactions.

**Institutionalized discrimination:** Unequal treatment that has become a part of the routine operation of such major social institutions as businesses, schools, hospitals, and the government.

**International families:** Families that result from globalization.

**International governmental organization (IGO):** An international organization established by treaties between governments for purposes of commerce, security, promotion of social welfare and human rights, or environmental protection.

**International nongovernmental organization (INGO):** An international organization established by agreements between the individuals or private organizations making up its membership and existing to fulfill an explicit mission.

**Interview:** A detailed conversation designed to obtain in-depth information about a person and his or her activities.

**Iron law of oligarchy:** Robert Michels’s theory that there is an inevitable tendency for a large-scale bureaucratic organization to become ruled undemocratically by a handful of people.

**Labeling theory:** A symbolic interactionist approach holding that deviance is a product of the labels people attach to certain types of behavior.

**Labor demand factors:** Factors that highlight the needs and preferences of the employer.

**Labor supply factors:** Factors that highlight reasons that women or men may “prefer” particular occupations.

**Language:** A system of symbolic verbal, nonverbal, and written representations rooted within a particular culture.

**Latent functions:** Functions of an object, an institution, or a phenomenon that are not recognized or expected.

**Laws:** Codified norms or rules of behavior.

**Leading questions:** Questions that tend to elicit particular responses.

**Legitimate authority:** A type of power that is recognized as rightful by those over whom it is exercised.

**Liberal feminism:** The belief that women’s inequality is primarily the result of imperfect institutions, which can be corrected by reforms that do not fundamentally alter society itself.

**Life chances:** The opportunities and obstacles a person encounters in education, social life, work, and other areas critical to social mobility.

**Literacy:** The ability to read and write at a basic level.

**Looking-glass self:** The concept developed by Charles Horton Cooley that our self-image results from how we interpret other people’s views of us.

**Macrolevel paradigms:** Theories of the social world that are concerned with large-scale patterns and institutions.

**Mandatory minimum sentences:** Legal requirements that persons found guilty of particular crimes must be sentenced to set minimum numbers of years in prison.

**Manifest functions:** Functions of an object, an institution, or a phenomenon that are obvious and intended.