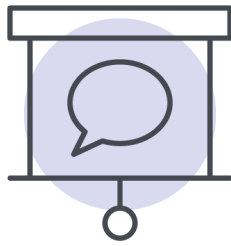

York

SOCI 1010
FINAL EXAM
STUDY GUIDE



Lecture Notes

SOCI 1010 Introduction to Sociology
Week 3
Lecture Notes

1) Theories to Explain Social Behaviours

Can be grouped in terms of:

a) Position

Taking a classical approach – emphasis on free will, hedonism, and moral responsibility for one's actions

OR

Positivism emphasizes consensus, use of the scientific method – biological psychological and social forces DETERMINE behaviour

b) Its focus

How structure of society effects behaviour or explaining the process of becoming a criminal – minimal emphasis on social structure

c) Core assumptions

Whether there is consensus on the values and norms in the society/group or a conflict

2) Level of theoretical analysis

- Micro-level theory – small levels of time, space and numbers of people, not very abstract concepts
- Macro-level theory – operations of larger aggregates
- Meso-level theory – links both micro- and macro-level theories

Structural Functionalism

- Macro theory
- Social entities viewed as an organism
- All parts of the social system contribute to the function as a whole
- Cooperation exists between the parts
- Conflicts serve as a function
- Society is viewed as a social system, with various components serving different functions

Emilie Durkheim (1858-1917)

- Interested in “social facts” – i.e. the effect of social structure and behaviour
- Structuralism – social factors external to the individual

- Social order a fact of life – focus on characteristics of groups and stricture vs. individual attributes
- Crime and deviance is normal – serves a function sets acceptable boundaries for behaviour

Key Concepts

- Integration – When society is strongly integrated it holds individual under its control
- Disintegrations – breakdown in society's ability to control behaviour of individuals. Potential to engage in non-conforming behaviour increases.

Regulation

- People's desires unlimited – external controls required – in well-regulated societies social controls set limits on individual desires
- If regulatory control breaks down, people can find themselves in a situation of dysregulation or anomie.

Anomie (normlessness/rulelessness)

- Result of poorly integrated or weakened controls

Morton's Typology of Adaptations to Anomie

Mode of Adaptation	Goals	Means	Example
Conformity	+	+	Good citizen
Innovation	+	-	Criminal
Ritualism	-	+	Bureaucrat
Retreatism	-	-	Substance user

Social disorganization theory

- **Major Premise**
 - Urban conditions of unemployment and poverty undermine social institutions which normally control criminal behaviour
- **Characterization of disorganization**
 - Areas of high unemployment, single parent families, dependence on social assistance, substandard housing. Limited social amenities
 - Social institutions
 - Have broken down
 - Lack authority to control behaviour
 - Little sense of community

Conflict Theories

- Shared assumptions
 - Social rules emerge from conflict and serve the interests of the powerful
 - The powerful are less likely to break the rules
 - The powerless are more likely to break the rules
- Marxist theory
 - Bourgeoisie exploit the proletariat

Symbolic Interactionist Theories of Social Problems

CONDITION DEFINED + CONDITION RECOGNIZED = SOCIAL PROBLEM

- Micro-sociology focuses on studying the social psychological dynamics of individuals interacting in small groups

Feminist Theories

- Many different types of feminism
 - i.e. emphasising women's experiences vs. emphasizing effects of patriarchy on women and men
- Critical mainstream theories for ignoring women
- Gendered nature of the social construction of deviance

Queer Theories

- Sex/gender model supports social problems of sexism, misogyny and homophobia
- Need to understand complexities of gender and identity
- Judith Butler
 - Refuses "the commonly held distinction between sex and gender" – makes clear the "instability" of sex – allows us to challenge the acceptance of the sex/gender model as being a "mutual" structure

SOCI 1010
Week 4
Lecture Notes

ESSAY TOPIC:**Pick one**

1. Familial abuse and self-concept
2. Cross-cultural comparisons of dating and mate selection
3. An analysis of why the most dangerous place for children is in the home.

ESSAY THESIS:**Establish one**

(cause and effect, i.e. *why problem is result*)

ESSAY OUTLINE DUE:

October 31 (5%)

ESSAY DUE:

February 27 (20%)

ESSAY RESOURCES

1. Literature Reviews
2. Relevant Resources
3. Using *Sociological Abstracts*
4. Research Guides

Literature Reviews**WHY DO WE DO THEM?**

- Tell reader what we know about topic
- Constructive criticism about the piece of literature
- Explaining article to audience in a precise way
- Identifying important elements of research articles is a skill
- Be precise and informed

Relevant Resources

- Journal articles
 - Books
 - Works Cited pages
 - Government documents
- Is this an article?
- Is this an original research article?
- Is this article about my research question?

- Is there adequate Canadian content in this article?
- When was this article published? Does currency matter?

- Qualitative
 - Content analysis
 - Ethnography
 - Fieldwork
 - Observation
- Quantitative
 - Surveys
 - Structured interviews
 - Polls

Sociological Abstracts

- Subscription database
- Focusing on research by sociologists or of interest to sociologists
- Contains hundreds of thousands of records

Research Guides

- York University Libraries
- Choose guides based on course/topic

SOCI 101 Intro to Sociology
Week 7 (October 24, 2016)
Lecture Notes

SOCIALIZATION DISCUSSION

- “WHO AM I?”
- “WHERE DO I WANT TO GO?”
 - Institutions play a major role in answering these questions
 - i.e. family, education, religion, etc...
 - Does not necessarily have to be one institution that is important to an individual
 - One can be more dominant in different stages of life
 - i.e. *childhood > dependent on family*
- Nature or Nurture? How are we integrated into society?
 - Biology vs. Environment
 - Looking-glass self
 - Primary groups and secondary groups
 - Social media/mass media is becoming a large institution that plays a large role in socialization
 - Quantitative vs. Qualitative numbers (i.e. *Facebook friends*)

CHANGING PATTERNS AND STRUCTURES IN CANADIAN FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS CHANGING TRENDS

- Types of Families
 - Nuclear
 - Extended – aunts, uncles, cousins, etc....
 - Blended – can have negative socialization impacts
 - child integration can be rocky
 - “you’re not my dad!”
 - Lone parent – increased dramatically – 35-37% families fall into this category
 - Common law
 - Same sex
 - Judged by an aspect of society
- The Census Family – married with or without children, live in a household

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF THE FAMILY

- Structural-functionalist perspective
 - FAMILY IS A **SOCIAL INSTITUTION**
 - i.e. Prostitution is functional for society because prostitutes serve function to *males who are deviant and crave sexual attention that they do not get from their wives or significant others*
- Functions
 - Reproduction
 - Regulation of sexual activity
 - Procreation
 - Socialization
 - Instrumental role – male
 - Expressive role – female
- Traditional gender roles contribute to functioning of the family
 - What about divorce? Becomes a dysfunction
 - Conflict perspective won’t buy into what the functionalists theorize

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE

- Human behaviour dependent on meanings and definition emerging from social interactions

DIVORCE

- ↑ Removal of stigma, social acceptance = increased divorce rates
- ↓ Stigma and social sanctions = low divorce rates
i.e. befriend a married couple, once they get divorced you back out of the social group

SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY

- Tendency for people to act in a manner consistent with the expectations of others
- Labelling affects the family
- Visitation rights
 - Divorced dads see themselves as visitors to their children normally
 - Father's rights advocates suggest replacing with terms "parenting plan"

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE

- Influence of social class and power
- Unequal power part of the problem of domestic violence
 - Marriage – an institution to protect property
 - Patriarchy
 - Male dominance
 - Wife is their property
- Unequal distribution of wealth and income
- Sexual division of labour
- Family policy and social programs shaped by and serve the interests of the powerful and the wealthy
- Corporate interests often conflict with the needs of families

FAMILY SOCIALIZATION AFFECTED BY:

- Social class of parents
- Parenting style
- Preparedness of parents for parenting role
- Psychological health of parents
 - i.e. neglect, abuse, abandonment of child
- Family type
 - i.e. single parent family, blended family

SOCI 1010 Introduction to Sociology
Week 8 (October 31)
Lecture Notes

Family Dysfunctionality

- Family violence is a criminal offence - varies in different countries
- Family abuse
 - Physical violence
 - Sexual assault
 - Emotional abuse
- Family violence is one of the most unreported types of violence
 - Children are good targets; they can be abused at any age
 - Female
 - Elderly
 - They all are less powerful in society
 - They are also dependent
- Violence > told to watch out for strangers
 - Yet the violent behaviour sometimes comes from the family
- Our generation is more dependent
 - Wait longer to leave the house, get a job, marry, reproduce
 - More likely to encounter familial violence
- Responsibility of childcare workers, teachers to report neglect if seen in a child (person of authority)
- Child abuse discovered > result of investigations in the 1960s when there was focus on that behaviour
- 1970s shifted focus from violence against children to violence against women
- 1980s shifted focus from violence against women to violence against the elderly
- Nowadays, the focus is familial violence
 - Intimacy of relationships
 - Different relationships within the family
 - Know weaknesses of family members, know which buttons to press
- Violence in the family is not a “one off” situation, there is history
 - Can end in a murder
 - Can be an isolated incident, yet there is a build up
- ¼ of crime is family crime
- Trauma > trust is violated between family members, betrayal
- EXAMPLE: Father figure comes home from work, frustrated from a bad day at work
 - Everything in his wake will bother him, leads to annoyance and violence
 - Can tear up the whole family
 - OBSERVING VIOLENCE CAN LEAD TO VIOLENCE
- Outside stressors can impact behaviour

- Emotional abuse greatly impacts
 - Confidence in identity
 - Self-image
 - Self esteem
- Home is supposed to be a safe haven, yet an abusive family is the opposite
 - Leads to homelessness
 - Short term policies can help, but no long-term solutions
- Up to government to fund initiatives
- Difficult to leave abusive relationship if one is dependent on the other
- Abuse amongst spouses often go unreported
- It's not right to leer at someone, making them uncomfortable in their own body
 - Media thinks women should be "sexy"
 - Men should be "strong"
 - Sends wrong messages
- Children should not experience violence in the home
 - Don't socialize at school
 - Do not participate
 - Potentially develop diseases
- What do we do?
 - Programs and education
- Lack of proper education, influence, is not enough

Defining Family Violence in Canada

- The definition developed by the federal Family Violence Initiative describes family violence as
 - "...a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust"
- The abuse behaviours include
 - Physical
 - Sexual
 - Verbal
 - Emotional
 - Financial victimization
 - Neglect
- If violence goes reported, some problems include
 - Revenge
 - Retaliation
 - Social agencies get involved
 - Fear
 - If woman is illegal immigrant, can get deported
- How do we protect these women?
- Single, poor, women of minority status are most prone to domestic violence

Four Patterns of Partner Violence

- Common couple violence
 - Occasional
 - Conflict gets out of hand
- Violent resistance
 - Acts of violence in self-defense
 - Almost exclusively women against men
- Intimate terrorism
 - Almost entirely men against women
 - Likely to escalate and lead to serious injury
- Motivated by wish to control
 - Economic subordination
 - Threats
 - Isolation
 - Verbal abuse
 - Emotional abuse
 - Other control tactics
 - Violence
- Men can threaten violence as a scare tactic
- Majority of police-reported family violence = women (68% of all police-reported family violence victims)
- Police-reported violence incidence by a current spouse = 8 of 10 female

Child Abuse

- The physical or mental injury
- Sexual abuse
- Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare
- Family members are most likely to be abusive, not strangers around them

Effects of Child Abuse

- Aggressive behaviour
- Low self esteem
- Depression
- Low academic achievement

Elder Abuse

- Physical abuse
- Psychological abuse

- Financial exploitation
- Medical abuse
- Neglect of the elderly
- Includes
 - Failure to provide basic health and hygiene needs
 - Unreasonable confinement
 - Isolation
 - Lack of supervision
 - Abandonment

SOCI 1010 Introduction to Sociology
Week 9
Lecture Notes

Age and the Elderly

DOES AGE MATTER?

- There are legal age limitations
- Is it an achieved variable or an ascribed status?
- Age is ascribed (a factor you have no control over)
- Age has rules and expectations

THE ELDERLY

- What would we classify as “old”?
 - **Young-Old:** 45 - 55
 - **Old:** 56 - 75
 - **Old-Old:** 76+
 - **Textbook Young-Old:** 65 - 74
 - **Textbook Old:** 75 - 84
 - **Textbook Old-Old:** 85+
 - These age ranges are SUBJECTIVE
- Some think the elderly are useless and they are a drain

AGE: A VARIABLE IMPACT

- Determines LIFE EXPERIENCES
- Associated with different developmental stages
- Defines roles and expectation of behaviour
- Influences membership of social groups
- Defines legal status

AGE GRADING

- The assignment of social rules to given chronological ages
- **Childhood – Birth – 17**
 - Subdivided into infancy, childhood and adolescence
- **Adulthood 18-64**
 - Subdivided into young adulthood, adulthood, and middle age
- **Elderhood 65+**
 - Divided into young-old, old, old-old
 - Young-old: healthy, active, independent
 - Less healthy, less active, more dependent
- Why are baby boomers in the centre of social problems?
 - The baby boomers make up almost a third of the population

- Throws off the population balance
- Going to eat up over 50% of the government's budget
- Younger generations are there to pay for this care
- However, the jobs are also being taken by these people
- Younger generations may be resentful of this
- THEREFORE, many young people become entrepreneurs

RETIREMENT AND GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

- **Old-Age Security Benefits** > have to be in Canada for over 40 years to benefit (about \$500)
- **CPP (Canadian Pension Plan)** > If you worked throughout your life (about \$1000)
- Government wants to cut down on the hours that youths are allowed to work

SO, DOES AGE MATTER?

- Age becomes important when you are in a position of power
- The people who govern our country – politicians – are in the 'elderly' category
- Many people in their adulthood are still dependent
- Age 16 > drive a car
- Age 18 > vote
- Age 19 > drink and smoke
- "Looking your age" for women has made a huge industry > hair, makeup, body image
 - Women are defined on how they look in our society
- These category classifications (childhood, adulthood, elderhood) is important when conducting research, for specifics

GOOD CONTENT FOR A MIDTERM

STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

- Disengagement Theory
 - Skills and knowledge of the elderly become obsolete – need to disengage
 - Elderly gradually withdraw
 - Young fill vacated roles (education system prepares them) KEY ISSUE
 - Balance in society
- Activity Theory
 - Rejects disengagement theory
 - Disengagement due to segregation and isolation
 - Increasing numbers of elderly remaining active and integrated
 - Staying socially active reduces role loss
 - Why segregate age?
 - Have young people work with old people

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE

- Age grading is a form of inequality
- Young and old is a subordinate status (see below)

STATUS**High**

18 -65 years
Working age

0-17 Young

65+ Old

Low

- Individuals at both ends of the age continuum superfluous to capitalist economy
 - **Children:** untrained: neither producers or consumers
 - **School:** preparation for capitalist economy
 - **Elderly:** unproductive and forced to retire (or pushed to)
 - Job satisfaction – elderly leave because they don't like their job
- Sandwich generation
 - People who take care of their children and their parents – the middle age
 - Falls on women
 - Women get the short end of the socioeconomic stick
- Can argue that youth and elderly don't matter to society because the working ages are the prime

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONAIST PERSPECTIVE

- Stereotypes of the **old** include
 - They're useless
 - Not tech-savvy
 - Miserable or grumpy
 - Crazy
 - Physically weak
- Stereotypes of **teenagers** include
 - Troublemakers
 - Lazy
 - Unmotivated
 - Technologically consumed
 - Rebellious
- Media
 - Infantilizing elders
 - Gerontophobia

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES

- Social devaluing as women move beyond reproductive years
 - Not youthful, self-identity, their age is showing

QUEER THEORY

- Queer culture
 - youth-oriented
 - queer youth are vulnerable
- Studies experiences of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons as they age
- Senior LGBT have “crisis competence”
- Gaybonics
 - An empowerment strategy
- Elderly have to face the reality of death
- Some may turn to euthanasia
 - **Euthanasia** > assisted suicide, in this case for the elderly
 - Should the elderly have assistance by those in society who are trained to make this decision?
 - Should the elderly themselves make this decision alone?
- Some elderly want to work, but they get fired due to their age
 - This can become a social problem
- Government needs to prioritize one group
 - What do they do with the elderly?
 - Should they invest in the younger generation instead?
 - Baby-boomers suck this money out of our economy

SOCI 1010
Week 10
Lecture Notes

YOUTH AND RELATED PROBLEMS

- Age 12 – 17 = youth, legal definition
- Will touch on teenage pregnancy (for females) and delinquency or youth violence (for males)
- Young people are the most violent in society
 - Why?
- What variables might explain teen pregnancy?
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Marriage
 - Birth Control
 - Abortion
- Western-European countries have the highest teen pregnancy rate
- Some teens want to have a child because
 - Looking for a meaning in life
 - Low self esteem
 - Escape family dysfunction
- In society, it is usually the young woman who is in charge of contraception

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

- Single, unwed mother
 - Financial problems/economic issues
 - Substance abuse
 - FAS
 - Policy makers need to decide what to do
 - Rehabilitation would be recommended (or custodial institution)
 - Criticism, especially if it is someone significant in their life
- Single parent households
 - Higher rates of delinquency in their children
- Notion of normative family has changed

YOUTH IN CONFLICT NON-MARITAL AND TEENAGE CHILD-BEARING

- Non-Marital Child-Cearing
 - No longer carries a stigma
 - Increased number of highly educated women choose to be sole parents
 - Cohabitation
 - Same sex relationships
- Teenage Pregnancy in Canada
 - Higher than developed European countries
 - Lower than the United States

- Teenage Child-Bearing
 - Related to
 - Low self-esteem
 - Hopelessness
 - Low parental supervision
 - Perceived lack of future occupational opportunities
- Solutions?
 - Parent education programs

PROBLEMS OF YOUTH IN CANADA

- Many social problems traced to childhood
- Historically, children have little control over their lives
- Double dependent on both their parents/guardians and the state

KIDS IN CRISIS

- Childhood
 - Life stage structured by socio-cultural forces
- Children face challenges
 - Influenced by social class and race/ethnicity
- Uncertain economic future
- Peer culture
- Popular culture
- Divorce
- Incidents of abuse, poverty and crime

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACT (JDA) 1908-1984

- Informal proceedings
 - Private, any sentence
- Judicial discretion
- Private hearings
- Indeterminate sentences
- Liable for non-criminal behaviour
 - i.e. promiscuity, incorrigibility

CRITICISMS OF THE JDA

- Rising rate of delinquency
- Too much judicial discretion
- Net-widening (more kinds of offences)
- Costs of administration
- No due process rights

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT (YOA) 1984-2003

- Responsibility of young person

- Protection of society
- Due process and legal rights (justice model)
- Special needs

CRITICISMS OF THE YOA

- Too soft
- More emphasis needed on prevention
- Inadequate response to violent youth
- Too much use of custody
- Failed to install respect, responsibility, and accountability

AMENDMENTS

- Stiffer sentences
- Supervision following custody
- Victim impact statements
- Publication of names

YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT (YJCA) 2003-

- Prevention
 - Address root causes
 - Protection of public is paramount
- Meaningful consequences
 - Specific measures for repeat and violent offenders
- Intensified rehabilitation
 - Firm control and treatment
 - Broader range of community-based sentences
- Public perception (Myths)
 - Youth crime is escalating
 - Crimes are more serious and violent
 - Youths are involved at an earlier age
 - Sentences are lenient
 - Number of youths charged by police is increasing
 - Loneliness

SOCI 1010 Introduction to Sociology

Week 11

Lecture Notes

CRIME AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM

- Is crime a social problem?
- Aspect as creating harm for others
- Depends on where you live, gender, socioeconomic status
- What is crime?
 - Violation of a criminal code
 - Laws to protect society from those who cause harm to others
- Have to prove that an individual's intent was to commit a crime
- Socioeconomic status plays a role in whether or not someone can be found guilty
- How many crimes are there in a year?
 - Impossible to know
 - Crimes go unreported
 - How do we measure the amount?
- What crimes are most likely to be reported?
 - Murder
 - Property Damage or Robbery
 - Car theft > Visit insurance company to be reimbursed
- What crimes are least likely to be reported?
 - Crimes that take place within households
 - Sexual abuse, familial abuse
 - Especially with victims who do not have the power within the household
- Stereotypical Torontonians criminal
 - Poor, young, urban, male of colour
 - Race and racism is definitely linked to crime
- Many criminals don't have stability in their lives
 - Don't have jobs
 - Not integrated in society, into a community
- Structural-functionalist perspective
 - Have subdivisions
 - Bring people together who haven't exactly met their life goals
 - People otherwise become frustrated and alienated
- Integration and regulation
 - How well is one integrated within their society?
- "People need to be controlled"
 - Humans are selfish in nature
 - Need regulatory enforcements
- If people aren't well integrated into society, they can experience normlessness
- General consensus within societies of what the goals should be
 - Conflict theorists tend to disagree

- Some sociologists focus on mental stability of criminals
 - Psychopath
 - Sociopath
- Some other sociologists focus on what makes a criminal
 - Can emphasize different theories
 - Structural-functionalist
 - Conflict
 - Symbolic-interactionist

GENERAL STRAIN THEORY (GST) ROBERT AGNEW (1992)

- Micro Theory
 - Explains individual experience of strain
- Crime result of negative affective states (emotions) caused by
 - Failure to achieve goals
 - Achievements not meeting expectations
 - Loss of positive things (divorce)
 - Negative stimuli (abuse)
- Crime (violence) results from
 - Continuous or repeated strain
 - Few resources for coping with strain
- Explains peaking of crime in adolescence
- What about women's lower rate of crime?
 - Females may be socialized to control, internalize stress
- Most crime takes place, intragroup
 - A familiar neighbourhood
 - So one doesn't stand out
- Stealing and other crime happens at younger ages
 - As an individual ages, there is more to lose (i.e. important relationships and property)

CONFLICT THEORY

- Law – reflects the interests of the ruling class
- Crime – defined by the ruling class
- Class conflict – correlation between crime rates and inequality
 - Economic survival
 - Alienation: powerlessness, frustration
- Law enforcement and sanctions – application differences, social class
- Powerful are less likely to break the rules

FEMINIST THEORIES

- Focuses on how the subordinate position of women in the social structure can influence criminal behaviour of women
- Provides insight into understanding crime and violence by concentrating on gender inequality
- Gender pathways to crime
- Gender-based power differences influence the framing of laws and the definition and detection of crime and the prosecution of criminals
- Relative powerlessness allowed many women to be victimized while the violence against them went unnoticed by the larger society