

Glossary

AARP New name for the American Association of Retired Persons, the largest and most influential lobbying group for older people in America.

achieved status Status or social position based on one's accomplishments or activities.

adolescence Term coined by psychologist G. Stanley Hall (1904) to name the years coinciding with puberty as a distinct—and perilous—life stage.

Adonis complex Term coined by psychiatrist Harrison Pope and his colleagues for the belief that men must look like Greek gods, with perfect chins, thick hair, rippling muscles, and washboard abdominals.

advocacy research Scientific research pursued to support or promote a particular position.

affirmative action Programs and policies developed to ensure that qualified minority group members are not discriminated against in the workplace, school admission, and the like. Affirmative action policies generally apply to race, ethnicity, and gender, among other categories.

age cohort A group of people who are born within a specific time period and therefore assumed to share both chronological and functional characteristics, as well as life experiences.

age norms Distinctive cultural values, pursuits, and pastimes that are culturally prescribed for each age cohort.

ageism Term coined by a physician to refer to differential treatment based on age—usually the elderly rather than the young.

agents of socialization The people, groups, or institutions that teach people how to be functioning members of their society.

alternative medicine Any of a variety of systems of healing or treating disease, including chiropractic, herbal treatments, homeopathy, meditation, and yoga, that are not included in the Western medicine curricula and may not have been scientifically tested for safety or effectiveness.

anorexia nervosa A potentially fatal syndrome characterized by chronic and dangerous starvation dieting and obsessive exercise.

anticipatory socialization The process of learning and adopting the beliefs, values, and behaviors of groups that one anticipates joining in the future.

apartheid A race-based caste system that mandated segregation of different racial groups. In South Africa it was a political system institutionalized by the White minority in 1948 and remained in effect until 1990.

ascribed status Status that is assigned to a person and over which he or she has no control.

asexual Having no sexual desire for anyone.

assimilation Occurs when a two groups come into contact and the minority group abandons their traditional culture to embrace the dominant culture.

authoritarian political system When power is vested in a single person or small group. Sometimes that person holds power through heredity, sometimes through force or terror.

authority Power that is perceived as legitimate, by both the holder of power and those subject to it. For a leader to exercise power, the people must believe he or she is entitled to make commands and that they should obey; indeed, that they want to obey.

baby boom Population bulge that occurred in Europe and North America following World War II, creating the biggest cohort in U.S. history.

BCE and CE Secular abbreviations for contemporary calendars. CE refers to the “common era” and BCE to “before the common era” instead of referring to the birth of Jesus as the marker.

bilineal descent Tracing one's ancestry through both parents, rather than only the mother (see *Matrilineal*) or only the father (see *Patrilineal*).

bisexual Feeling attracted to and preferring sexual partners of both sex.

blogs Short for “weblogs”; online opinion sites.

bourgeoisie Popularized by Karl Marx, term for the upper-class capitalists who owned the means of production. In Marx's time, they owned factories instead of farms. Today the term is also used to refer to upper-class managers who wield a lot of power.

broken windows theory Philip Zimbardo's proposition that minor acts of deviance can spiral into severe crime and social decay. Atmosphere and context are keys to whether deviance occurs or spirals.

Buddhism Founded by Siddhartha Gantana, later called the Buddha, it teaches that enlightenment is possible in this lifetime, through the Tenfold Path. There are two main branches—Hinayana and Mahayana. Today there are 376 million Buddhists, mostly in East Asia.

bulimia A potentially fatal syndrome characterized by food “binging and purging” (eating large quantities and then either vomiting or taking enemas to excrete it).

bureaucracy Originally derived from the French word *bureau*, or office, a formal organization characterized by a division of labor, a hierarchy of authority, formal rules

governing behavior, a logic of rationality, and an impersonality of criteria.

bureaucratic personality Robert Merton's term to describe those people who become more committed to following the correct procedures than they are to getting the job done

canon The officially recognized set of foundational sociologists.

capital Natural resources, manufactured goods, and professional services.

capitalism An economic system in which free individuals pursue their own private interests in the marketplace. In laissez-faire capitalism, markets freely compete without government intervention. State capitalism requires that the government use a heavy hand in regulating and constraining the marketplace; and welfare capitalism creates a market-based economy for most goods and services, yet also has social welfare programs and government ownership of essential services.

caste system A fixed and permanent, stratification system to which you are assigned to at birth.

causality The term used when one variable causes another to change.

charismatic authority Authority derived from the personal appeal of a specific leader.

charismatic leader A person whose extraordinary personal qualities touch people enough to break with tradition and follow him or her.

charter schools Privatization-oriented school reform initiative in which schools are financed through taxpayer funds but administered privately.

Christianity The world's largest religion today, it was founded 2,000 years ago by disciples of Jesus, who declared him to be the son of God.

chronological age A person's age determined by the actual date of his or her birth.

civil religion Robert Bellah's term for secular rituals that, much like religious practices, create intense emotional bonds among people.

civil society The clubs, churches, fraternal organizations, civic organizations, and other groups that once formed a third "zone" between home and work.

class A group of people sharing the same social position in society. Class is based on income, power, and prestige.

class system System of stratification in which people are ranked according to their economic position.

cluster sample A sampling technique used when "natural" groupings are evident in the population. The total population is divided into these groups (or clusters), then a sample of the groups is selected. Then the required information is collected from the elements within each selected group.

coercive organization One in which membership is not voluntary, with elaborate formal rules and sanctions and correspondingly elaborate informal cultures.

cohabitation Once called "shacking up" or "living in sin," now more often called just "living together," the sociological

term for people who are in a romantic relationship but not married living in the same residence.

colonialism A political-economic system under which powerful countries establish, for their own profit, rule over weaker peoples or countries and exploit them for natural resources and cheap labor.

communism Envisioned as the ideal economic system by Karl Marx, communism would produce and distribute resources "from each according to his or her ability, to each according to his or her need," erasing social inequalities along with crime, hunger, and political strife.

companionate marriage The (comparatively recent) idea that people should select their own marriage partner based on compatibility and mutual attraction.

confirmation bias Occurs when a single case or a few cases of an expected behavior confirms a belief while less-obvious disconfirming behavior is ignored.

conflict theory Sociological paradigm that views society as organized by conflict rather than consensus and sees that norms and values are not equally distributed or accepted among members of a society. This theory tends to focus on inequality.

confounding variables The things that might get in the way of an accurate measurement of the impact of one variable on another.

Confucianism Ethical and philosophical system developed from the teachings of the Chinese sage Confucius that focuses primarily on secular ethics and the cultivation of the civilized individual to create a civilized and peaceful society.

conspicuous consumption Thorstein Veblen's term to describe a new form of prestige based on accumulating and displaying possessions.

consumer crime Crime in which the perpetrator uses a fake or stolen credit card to buy things for him- or herself or for resale. Such purchases cost both retailers and, increasingly, "e-tailers" over \$1 billion per year, or nearly 5 cents for every dollar spent online.

consumption The purchase and use of goods and services.

content analysis Research method in which one analyzes artifacts (books, movies, TV programs, magazine articles, and so on) instead of people.

control group In an experiment, the comparison group that will not experience the manipulation of independent variable (the experimental group). Having a control group enables sociologists to compare the outcomes of the experiment to determine if the changes in the independent variable had any effects on the dependent variable.

control theory Travis Hirschi's theory that people perform a cost-benefit analysis about becoming deviant, determining how much punishment is worth the degree of satisfaction or prestige the deviance will confer.

corporation A business that is treated legally as an individual. It can make contracts, incur debts, sue, and be sued, but its obligations and liabilities are legally distinct from those of its owners.

correlation The term for the fact of some relationship between two phenomena.

countercultures Subcultures that identify themselves through their difference and opposition to the dominant culture.

coup d'état The violent replacing of one political leader with another, it often doesn't bring with it any change in the daily life of the citizens.

credential society A society based more on the credentialing aspects of education than any substantive knowledge.

crime A deviant act that lawmakers consider bad enough to warrant formal laws and sanctions.

cross-sectional study A study that compares different age groups at one moment in time.

crowd An aggregate of individuals who happen to be together but experience themselves as essentially independent.

cult The simplest form of religious organization, characterized typically by fervent believers and a single idea or leader.

cultural capital French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu's term for the cultural articles—an idea, an artistic expression, a form of music or literature—that function as resources that people in the dominant class can use to justify their dominance.

cultural diffusion The spreading of new ideas through a society, independent of population movement.

cultural diversity Describes both the vast differences between the cultures of the world as well as the differences in belief and behavior that exist within cultures.

cultural imperialism The deliberate imposition of one country's culture on another country.

cultural relativism A position that all cultures are equally valid in the experience of their own members.

cultural universals Rituals, customs, and symbols that are evident in all societies.

culture Both the material basis for social life and the sets of values and ideals that we understand to define morality, good and evil, appropriate and inappropriate.

culture industries The idea that American media productions are industrial products like any other product, a mode of production that empties them of original or complex content and soon renders their audiences passive and uncritical.

culture lag The relatively gradual process by which nonmaterial elements of culture catch up with changes in material culture and technology.

culture of poverty Oscar Lewis's theory that poverty is not a result of individual inadequacies but larger social and cultural factors. Poor children are socialized into believing that they have nothing to strive for, that there is no point in working to improve their conditions. As adults, they are resigned to a life of poverty, and they socialize their children the same way. Therefore poverty is transmitted from one generation to another.

culture shock A feeling of disorientation when the cultural markers that we rely on to help us know where we are and how to act have suddenly changed.

cybercrime The growing array of crimes committed via Internet and the World Wide Web, such as Internet fraud and identity theft.

data The plural of '*datum*', data are systematically collected and systematically bits of organized information.

deductive reasoning Reasoning that logically proceeds from one demonstrable fact to the next. It often moves from the general to the more specific.

deinstitutionalization The mental health movement of the 1970s that relocated mental health patients into halfway houses and community-based organizations in an effort to help them reintegrate into society.

democracy Derived from the Greek word *demos* (people); puts legislative decision making into the hands of the people rather than a single individual or a noble class.

demographic transition theory Frank Notestein's (1945) theory that the population and technology spur each other's development.

demography The scientific study of human populations, it's one of the oldest and most popular branches of sociology. Demographers are primarily concerned with the statistics of birth, death, and migration.

denomination A large-scale, extremely organized religious body with established hierarchy and methods for credentialing administrators.

dependent variable The variable whose change depends on the introduction of the independent variable.

detached observation A perspective that constrains the researcher from becoming in any way involved in the event he or she is observing. This reduces the amount that the researchers' observations will change the dynamic that they are watching.

deviance Breaking or refusing to follow a social rule. The rule can be societywide or specific to a particular group or situation.

dictatorship Rule by one person who has no hereditary claim to rule. Dictators may acquire power through a military takeover, or they may be elected or appointed.

differential association Edwin H. Sutherland's theory suggesting that deviance occurs when an individual receives more prestige and less punishment by violating norms than by following them.

differential power Phrase defining significant differences in access to economic, social, and political resources; is one of the four characteristics that a group must have to be considered a minority group.

disability According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities."

discrimination A set of actions based on prejudice and stereotypes.

disinterestedness The scientific norm that stipulates scientific research should not be pursued for personal goals but in pursuit of scientific truth.

dramaturgy Erving Goffman's conception of social life as like a stage play wherein we all work hard to convincingly play ourselves as "characters," such as grandchild, buddy, student, employee, or other roles.

drug Any substance that, when ingested into the body, changes the body's functioning in some way.

dyad A group of two people, the smallest configuration defined by sociologists as a group.

ecclesiae Religious institutions so pervasive that the boundary between state and church is nonexistent and in which the clerical elite also serves as the political elite.

economic system A mechanism that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in a particular society.

economy A set of institutions and relationships that manages capital.

ecosystem An interdependent system in which the animals, plants, and the material substances that make up the physical world live.

education A social institution through which society provides its members with important knowledge—basic facts, job skills, and cultural norms and values. It provides socialization, cultural innovation, and social integration. It is accomplished largely through schooling, formal instruction under the direction of a specially trained teacher.

ego Freud's term for the balancing force between the id and the superego; it channels impulses into socially acceptable forms.

emigration rate Outflow of people from one society to another.

empirical verification The scientific way of learning answers to questions, in which knowledge is developed, demonstrated, and double-checked through experiments.

encoding/decoding Model for media interpretation that focuses on the relationship between how media construct meaning and how people make sense of what they see, hear, and read.

epidemiology The study of the causes and distribution of disease and disability.

ethnic groups A group that is set apart from other groups by language and cultural traditions. Ethnic groups share a common ancestry, history, or culture.

ethnicity Social category that depends on an assumption of inherent cultural differences to rate and organize social groups.

ethnocentrism The use of one's own culture as the reference point by which to evaluate other cultures; it often depends on or leads to the belief that one's own cultures is superior to others.

ethnography A type of field method in which the researcher inserts him or herself into the daily world of the people he or she is trying to study, to understand the events from the point of view of the actors themselves.

ethnomethodology The study of the social knowledge, codes, and conventions that underlie everyday interactions and allow people use to make sense of what others say and do.

evolutionary imperative The term used to imply that the chief goal of all living creatures is to reproduce themselves.

exogamy The insistence that marriage to (or sex with) members of your family unit is forbidden. This is the incest taboo, which Sigmund Freud argued was the one single cultural universal.

experimental group In an experiment, the group that will have the change introduced to see what happens. *See* Control Group.

extended family The most common model in the premodern era, the family model in which two or three generations lived under the same roof, or at least in the same compound: grandparents, parents, unmarried uncles and aunts, married uncles and aunts, sisters, brothers, cousins, and all of their children.

extraneous variables Variables that influence the outcome of an experiment but are not the variables that are actually of interest.

face work In dramaturgical theory, the possible performance of ourselves, because when we make a mistake or do something wrong, we feel embarrassed, or "lose face."

fads Short-lived, highly popular, and widespread behaviors, styles, or modes of thought.

family The basic unit in society, it traditionally consists of two parents rearing their children, but may also be any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family, such as single parents with children, spouses without children, and several generations living together.

family of origin A child's biological parents or others who are responsible for his or her upbringing.

family of procreation The family one creates through marriage or cohabitation with a romantic partner. Today, we consider any adults you are living with as a family of procreation, even if none of them is actually doing any procreating.

fan Someone who finds significant personal meaning through a heightened awareness of and allegiance toward a specific media text—a story, a series, a performer. Fandom is a public affiliation, a public proclamation that your allegiance to some media product reveals a core element of your identity.

fashion A behavior, style, or idea that is more permanent and often begins as a fad.

fecundity The maximum number of children a woman could have during her childbearing years.

femininities Term that recognizes the multiple meanings that female gender might contain. Making the term plural indicates how different groups of women might have different identities and enables us to see how conflicts between different groups—say, for example, Whites and Blacks or rich and poor—may also be expressed in gender terms.

feminism A system of beliefs and actions that rests on two principles: gender inequality defines our society; and inequality is wrong and must change.

feminization of poverty A worldwide phenomenon that also afflicts U.S. women, this term describes that women's

overrepresentation among the world's poor and tendency to be in the worse economic straits than men in any given nation or population.

feminization of the professions The phenomenon in which salaries drop as female participation increases, revealing that it is less the intrinsic properties of the position that determine its wages and prestige and more which sex does it.

fertility The number of children that a woman bears.

fertility rate The number of children that would be born to each woman if she lived through her childbearing years with the average fertility of her age group.

folkways Relatively weak and informal norms that are the result of patterns of action. Many of the behaviors we call "manners" are folkways.

for-profit universities These institutions of higher learning are proprietary and are characterized by lower tuition costs and a faster path to degrees for students. Facilities are usually limited, and faculty is not tenured.

functional age A set of observable characteristics and attributes that are used to categorize people into different age cohorts.

fundamentalism The extreme end of many religions, fundamentalism tries to return to the basic precepts, the "true word of God," and live exactly according to his precepts.

gender A socially constructed definition based on sex category, based on the meanings that societies attach to the fact of sex differences.

gender identity Our understanding of ourselves as male or female and what it means to be male or female, perhaps the most fundamental way in which we develop an identity.

gender inequality Gender inequality has two dimensions: the domination of men over women, and the domination of some men over other men and some women over other women.

gender polarization Term coined by sociologist Sandra Bem to describe that male-female distinction, understood in a pattern of opposites, is the organizing principle of social life.

gender roles Psychology-based term to define the bundle of traits, attitudes, and behaviors that are associated with biological males and females. Roles are blueprints that prescribe what you should do, think, want, and look like, so that you can successfully become a man or a woman.

gender socialization Process by which males and females are taught the appropriate behaviors, attitudes, and traits for their biological sex. It begins at birth and continues throughout their lives.

gender wage gap The significant and remarkably consistent gap between earnings of men and women. The gap between White men and women of color is larger than between White men and White women.

generalizability Also called external validity or applicability, the extent to which the results of a study can be generalized to other circumstances.

generalized other The organized rules, judgments, and attitudes of an entire group. If you try to imagine what is expected of you, you are taking on the perspective of the generalized other.

generation X Also called "baby bust," the generation that followed the baby boom, which was much smaller in number and experienced lesser educational and professional opportunity and income than boomers.

generation Y Also called the "Echo Boom" or "Baby Boomerlet," the children of the baby boomers who make up nearly as large a cohort as did their parents and are characterized by being technology, brand, and market savvy.

genocide The planned, systematic destruction of a racial, political, or ethnic group.

gentrification The process by which poorer urban neighborhoods are "upgraded" through renovation and development, often pushing out long-time residents of lesser means who can no longer afford to live there.

gerontology Scientific study of the biological, psychological, and sociological phenomena associated with old age and aging.

global commodity chains Worldwide networks of labor and production processes, consisting of all pivotal production activities that form a tightly interlocked "chain" from raw materials to finished product to retail outlet to consumer. The most profitable activities in the commodity chain (engineering, design, advertising) are likely to be done in core countries, while the least profitable activities (mining or growing the raw materials, factory production) are likely to be done in peripheral countries.

global inequality Systematic differences in wealth and power among countries, often involving exploitation of the less powerful by the more powerful countries.

global village Marshall McLuhan's term for his vision of the way global electronic media would unite the world through mutual interaction and involvement.

globalization A set of processes leading to the development of patterns of economic, cultural, and social relationships that transcend geographical boundaries; a widening, deepening, and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness in all aspects of contemporary life.

government The organization and administration of the actions of the inhabitants of communities, societies, and states.

graying of america Term for the current sociological trend in which birthrates have been going down while life expectancy has been going up, resulting in an increasing proportion of elderly people.

group Collection of individuals who are aware that they share something in common and who interact with one another on the basis of their interrelated roles and statuses.

group cohesion The degree to which individual members of a group identify with each other and with the group as a whole.

group marriage Rare marriage arrangement in which two or more men marry two or more women, with children born to anyone in the union "belonging" to all of the partners equally.

groupthink Irving Janis' term for social process in which members of a group attempt to conform their opinions to what they believe to be the consensus of the group, even if, as individuals, they may consider that opinion wrong or unwise.

hardcore members The small number of group members, the "inner circle," who wield a great deal of power to make policy decisions.

hate crime A criminal act committed by an offender motivated by bias against race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability status.

health A state of complete mental, physical, and social well-being, not simply the absence of disease, according to the World Health Organization.

heterosexism Institutionally based inequalities that may derive from homophobia.

heterosexuality The most common sexual orientation worldwide, it is sexual attraction between people of different genders.

hidden curriculum Means of socialization through which education not only creates social inequalities, but makes them seem natural, normal, and inevitable.

Hindusim Developed in India around 1500 BCE, it believes in many gods, but most of the time people revere one of the main three: Brahman (creator of life); Vishnu (preserver of life); Shiva (destroyer or renewer of life). Today there are 900 million Hindus, mostly in South Asia and in Indian communities worldwide.

homophobia A socially approved dislike of gay men and lesbians.

homosexuality Sexual desire toward members of one's own gender.

hooking up A sexual encounter that may or may not include sexual intercourse, usually occurring on only one occasion between two people who are strangers or brief acquaintances.

human capital Unpaid household labor.

human ecology A social science discipline that looks at the relations among people in their shared environments.

hypothesis A testable explanation for an event or phenomenon, that assumes a relationship between two or more variables.

id Sigmund Freud's label for that part of the human personality that is pure impulse, without worrying about social rules, consequences, morality, or other people's reactions.

identifiability Term used to describe that minority group members share (or are assumed to share) physical or cultural traits that distinguish them from the dominant group.

illiberal democracies Societies that select leaders through free elections but in which officials pay so little attention to the constitution and other laws and to the opinions of their constituents that the country might as well be an oligarchy.

immigration rate The number of people entering a territory each year for every thousand of the population.

immiseration thesis Marx's theory that, as capitalism proceeded, the rich would get richer and the poor would get

poorer, and eventually the poor would become so poor that they had nothing else to lose and would revolt.

impression management Erving Goffman's term for our attempts to control how others perceive us, by changing our behavior to correspond to an ideal of what they will find most appealing.

independent variable In an experimental study, the agent of change, the ingredient that is added to set things in motion.

inductive reasoning Research in which one reasons to a conclusion about all or many members of a class based on examination of only a few members of that class. Loosely, it is reasoning from the specific to the general.

industrial economies Economies based on factory production and technologies.

industrial revolution Transformation of the economy due to a large-scale shift from home-based craft work by individuals to machine-based mass production in factories.

infant mortality rate The number of deaths per year in each thousand infants (up to one year old).

in-group A group with which you identify and that you feel positively toward, producing a "we" feeling.

in-group heterogeneity The social tendency to be keenly aware of the subtle differences among the individual members of your group (while believing that all members of out-groups are exactly the same).

institution An organization or association created and sustained by patterned social relationships established for the promotion of some object, especially one of public or general utility.

institutional discrimination The most subtle and pervasive type of discrimination, it is deeply embedded in such institutions as the educational system, the business world, health care, criminal justice, and the mass media. These social institutions promote discriminatory practices and traditions that have such a long history they just "seem to make sense," and minority groups become the victims of systematic oppression, even when only a few people, or none at all, are deliberately trying to discriminate.

integration The physical intermingling of the races organized as a concerted legal and social effort to bring equal access and racial equality through racial mixing in institutions and communities.

interest groups Also called special interest groups, pressure groups, and lobbies, these groups promote their interests among state and national legislators and often influence public opinion. There are two kinds: Protective groups represent only one trade, industry, minority, or subculture; promotional groups seek to represent the interests of the entire society.

internal migration Moving from one region to another within a territory.

interpretive communities Groups that guide interpretation and convey preferred readings of media texts.

intersections or intersectionality Denotes the study of the "intersections" of gender, race, class, age, ethnic, and sexual

dimensions of inequality. Each of these forms of inequality shapes and modifies the others.

interviews Research method in which a researcher asks a small group of people open-ended questions.

intimate partner violence (IPV) Violence, lethal or nonlethal, experienced by a spouse, ex-spouse, or cohabiting partner; boyfriend or girlfriend; or ex-boyfriend or girlfriend. It is commonly called “domestic violence,” but because some does not occur in the home, IPV is the preferred term.

Islam Founded about 1400 years ago when God was displeased by the corruptions of earlier prophets and gave his last prophet, Mohamed, a new sacred text, the Koran. It requires the fusion of religion and government and has two main branches—Shi’ite and Sunni.

jihad A holy war

Judaism The first monotheistic religion; believes the covenant between God and Abraham took place around 2000 BCE and became the foundation of Jewish law. Today there are about 15 million Jews worldwide.

kinship systems Social systems that locate individuals by reference to their families, that is by common biological ancestry, legal marriage, or adoption.

knowledge economy One defining element of the postindustrial economy in which ideas, information, and knowledge have become new forms of capital.

labeling theory Howard Becker’s term stresses the relativity of deviance, naming the mechanism by which the same act is considered deviant in some groups but not in others. Labels are used to categorize and contain people.

labor unions A group of workers who act collectively address common issues and interests.

language An organized set of symbols by which we are able to think and communicate with others, and the chief vehicle by which human beings create a sense of self.

latent functions The unintended consequences of an action or event.

laws Norms that have been organized and written down. Breaking these norms involves the disapproval not only of immediate community members, but also of the agents of the state, who are charged with punishing such norm-breaking behavior.

leader All groups have leaders, people in charge, whether they were elected, appointed, or just informally took control.

legal-rational authority Form of authority where leaders are to be obeyed not primarily as representatives of tradition or because of their personal qualities but because they are voicing a set of rationally derived laws. They must act impartially, even sacrificing their own opinions and attitudes in obedience to the laws of the land.

legitimacy Social arrangements that ensure men know what children they have produced (women usually know). Families then bear the economic and emotional burden of raising only the children that belong to them.

liberal feminism One of the three main branches of feminism today; focuses on the individual woman’s rights and opportunities.

liberation theology A movement within the Catholic Church in Latin America that was a source of popular mobilization for social change. Liberation theology stressed the nobility of the poor and promoted a religious response to hunger, disease, and poverty.

life expectancy The average number of years a person can expect to live; varies greatly by country and region.

life span The average or the maximum amount of time an organism or object can be expected to live or last.

Likert scale The most common form of survey coding; arranges possible responses from lowest to highest.

literature review Reading and summary of other research on or closely related to the topic of a study.

longitudinal study A study that compares the same group (cohort) at various points in time as they age.

looking-glass self Cooley’s term for the process of how identity is formed through social interaction. We imagine how we appear to others and thus develop our sense of self based on the others’ reactions, imagined or otherwise.

macrolevel analysis Analysis of the large scale patterns or social structures of society, such as economies or political systems.

majority group A group whose members experience privilege and access to power because of their group membership. With regard to race, lighter-colored skin usually means membership in the majority group.

Malthusian theory Developed by the English economist and clergyman Thomas Robert Malthus (1766–1834), the theory held that population would increase by geometric progression, doubling in each generation—a man and a woman would have four children, and those four would have eight, and those eight sixteen, and so on, leading to mass starvation, environmental disaster, and eventual human extinction.

manifest functions The intended consequences of an action or event.

manufacture consent Michael Burawoy’s term for the strategies by which companies get workers to embrace a system that also exploits them.

markets Regular exchanges of goods and services within an economy.

masculinities Term that recognizes the multiple meanings that male gender might contain. Making the term plural indicates how different groups of men might have different identities and enables us to see how conflicts between different groups—say, for example, Whites and Blacks or rich and poor—may also be expressed in gender terms.

masculinization of sex The pursuit of sexual pleasure for its own sake, increased attention to orgasm, increased numbers of sexual partners, interest in sexual experimentation, and separation of sexual behavior from love. That is partly the result of the technological transformation of sexuality (from birth

control to the Internet) and partly the result of the sexual revolution's promise of greater sexual freedom with fewer emotional and physical consequences

mass media Ways to communicate with vast numbers of people at the same time, usually over a great distance. Mass media have developed in countless directions: books, newspapers, magazines, motion pictures, records and tapes, CDs and DVDs, radio and television programs, comic strips and comic books, and a whole range of new digital media.

mass production The manufacture of goods in large quantities, generally using standardized designs and assembly-line techniques.

master status An ascribed or achieved status presumed so important that it overshadows all of the others, dominating our lives and controlling our position in society.

material culture The things people make, and the things they use to make them—the tools they use, the physical environment they inhabit (forests, beaches, mountains, fertile farmlands, or harsh desert).

matrilineal descent Tracing one's ancestry through the mother, her mother, and so on.

matrix of domination An interlocking system of control in which each type of inequality reinforces the others, so that the impact of one cannot be fully understood without also considering the others.

McDonaldization The homogenizing spread of consumerism around the globe.

mechanical solidarity Durkheim's term for a traditional society where life is uniform and people are similar. They share a common culture and sense of morality that bonds them.

media The plural of *medium*, they are the ways that we communicate with each other.

media consolidation The ongoing trends in media ownership in which only a handful of very large companies own and control the vast majority of media around the world.

media text The words, pictures, and/or sounds that convey ideas in any mass medium.

medicalization The current social tendency to assign virtually all aspects of health and illness an exclusively medical meaning.

megalopolis A term coined by Jean Gottmann in 1961 to describe the integration of large cities and sprawling suburbs into a single organic urbanized unit, such as "Bo Wash" the Boston to Washington DC corridor that includes New York and Philadelphia, as well as the suburbs.

mental illness "Any of various psychiatric disorders or diseases, usually characterized by impairment of thought, mood, or behavior," according to the *American Heritage Science Dictionary* (2002).

meritocracy Social system in which the greater the functional importance of the job, the more rewards it brings, in salary, perks, power, and prestige.

microlevel analysis Analysis of small-scale social patterns, such as individual interactions or small group dynamics.

midlife crisis Popular belief that middle-aged men (and to a lesser extent, women) go through a developmental crisis at midlife characterized by wholesale changes in their work, relationships, and leisure activities.

minority group A group one is born into, which has a distinguishable identity and whose members have less power and access to resources than other groups in society because of that group membership.

miscegenation Early term for interracial marriage, it carries a pejorative inflection.

modernism In sociology, it challenged tradition, religion, and aristocracies as remnants of the past and saw industry, democracy, and science as the wave of the future.

modernization theory W. W. Rostrow's theory focusing on the conditions necessary for a low-income country to develop economically. Arguing that a nation's poverty is largely due to the cultural failings of its people, Rostrow believed poor countries could develop economically only if they give up their "backward" way of life and adopt modern Western economic institutions, technologies, and cultural values that emphasize savings and productive investment.

monarchy One of the first political systems; rule by a single individual (*mono* means "one," and *archy* means "rule").

monogamy The most common arrangement, it means marriage between two people. Most monogamous societies allow men and women to marry each other because it takes one of each to make a baby, but same-sex monogamy is surprisingly common.

morbidity rate The rates of new infections from disease.

mores The plural of *mos*, these are informally enforced norms based on strong moral values, which are viewed as essential to the proper functioning of a group.

mortality rate The number of deaths per year for every thousand people.

multicultural feminism One of the three main branches of feminism today; argues that the experience of being a woman of color cannot be extracted from the experience of being a woman. Multicultural feminists emphasize the historical context of racial and class-based inequalities.

multiculturalism The doctrine that several different cultures (rather than one national culture) can coexist peacefully and equitably in a single country.

multigenerational households Adults of more than one generation sharing a domestic space.

multinational corporations Also called "transnational corporations," giant companies that are not clearly located in any one country but operate through a network of offices all over the world.

muscle dysmorphia A belief that one is insufficiently muscular.

natural population increase Simple calculation of the number of deaths every year subtracted from the number of births.

net migration rate The difference between immigration and emigration rates in a given year.

network Often conceived as a web of social relationships, a type of group that is both looser and denser than a formal group but connects people to each other, and, through those connections, with other people.

New Age An umbrella term for many groups that practice and develop a distinct spirituality. New Age groups draw on organized religions and even traditions like astrology and a belief in life in outer space.

nonmarital sex Sexual relations outside marriage.

nonmaterial culture Often just called “culture,” the ideas and beliefs that people develop about their lives and their world.

normative organization Voluntary organization wherein members serve because they believe in the goals of the organization.

norms The rules a culture develops that define how people should act and the consequences of failure to act in the specified ways.

objectivity The scientific norm that stipulates scientific knowledge must be based on objective criteria, not political agendas or personal preferences.

occupational crime The use of one’s professional position to illegally secure something of value for oneself or for the corporation.

oligarchy Rule of a small group of people, an elite social class, or often a single family.

organic solidarity Emile Durkheim’s term for a modern society where people are interdependent because of the division of labor; they disagreed on what was right and wrong but shared solidarity because the division of labor made them dependent on each other.

organization A formal group of people with one or more shared goals.

organizational crime Illegal actions committed in accordance with the operative goals of an organization, such as antitrust violations, false advertising, or price fixing.

out-group One to which you do not belong and toward which you feel either neutral or hostile; the “they” who are perceived as different from and of lower stature than ourselves.

out-group homogeneity The social tendency to believe that all members of an out-group are exactly the same (while being keenly aware of the subtle differences among the individual members of one’s own group).

outsourcing Also called “offshoring,” the term refers to the practice of hiring out any phase(s) of product development to lower-wage countries.

overt racism Systematic prejudice applied to members of a group in clear, manifest ways, such as speech, discrimination, or a refusal to associate with members of that group.

paradigm An example, pattern, or model, especially an outstandingly clear or typical example or archetype.

participant observation Sociological research method in which one observes people in their natural habitat.

participatory democracy Also called “pure democracy,” a political system in which every person gets one vote and the majority rules.

patriarchy Literally, “the rule of the fathers”; a name given to the social order in which men hold power over women.

patrilineal descent Tracing one’s ancestry through the father, and his father, and so on.

pay gap The consistent, worldwide difference between what men are paid and what women are paid for their labor.

pedophilia Erotic attraction to children of either or both genders.

peer groups Our groups of friends and wider groups of acquaintances who have an enormous socializing influence, especially during middle and late childhood.

pluralism Maintains that different groups in a stable society can treat each other with mutual respect and that minority cultures can maintain their own distinctiveness and still participate in the greater society without discrimination.

Political Action Committee (PAC) Lobbying groups who work to elect or defeat political candidates based on their (the candidates) stances on particular issues.

political revolution Changes the political groups that run the society, but they still draw their strength from the same social groups that supported the old regime.

politics The art and science of government.

polyandry Rare form of polygamy in which one woman marries two or more men.

polygamy Marriage between three or more people. (See *Polyandry* and *Polygyny*.)

polygyny The most common form of polygamy, a marriage between one man and two or more women.

popular culture The culture of the masses, the middle and working class, that includes a wide variety of popular music, nonhighbrow forms of literature, any forms of spectator sports, and other popular forms of entertainment, like television, movies, and video games.

population composition The comparative numbers of men and women and various age groups in an area, region, or country.

population density The number of people per square mile or kilometer.

population pyramid Type of graph that shows five- or ten-year age groups as different-sized bars, or “blocks.”

pornography A visual or written depiction of sexual activity with no “redeeming social value.” Of course, what counts as “redeeming social value” is in the eye of the beholder.

postindustrial economies Economies that shift from the production of goods to the production of ideas.

postmodernism A late-twentieth-century worldview that emphasizes the existence of different worldviews and concepts of reality, rather than one “correct” or “true” one. Postmodernism emphasizes that a particular reality is a social construction by a particular group, community, or class.

poverty line Estimated minimum income required to pay for food, shelter, and clothing. Anyone falling below this income is categorized as poor.

power The ability to extract compliance despite resistance or the ability to get others to do what you want them to do, regardless of their own desires.

predictability The degree to which a correct prediction of a research outcome can be made.

prejudice A set of beliefs and attitudes that cause us to negatively prejudice people based on their social location.

primary deviance Any minor, usually unnoticed, act of deviance committed irregularly that does not have an impact on one's self-identity or on how one is labeled by others.

primary group One such as friends and family, which comes together for expressive reasons, providing emotional support, love, companionship, and security.

primary sex characteristics Those anatomical sex characteristics that are present at birth, like the sex organs themselves, which develop in the embryo.

primary socialization A culture's most basic values, which are passed on to children beginning in earliest infancy.

production The creation of value or wealth by producing goods and services.

profane Anything in our everyday lives that is non-religious in subject matter, form or use, or is marked by contempt or irreverence for what is sacred.

proletariat Popularized by Karl Marx, the term for the lower classes who were forced to become wage laborers or go hungry. Today, the term is often used to refer to the working class.

property crime A crime committed on property, such as burglary, car theft, or arson, where there is no force or threat of force against a person.

proportional representation In contrast to the winner-take-all system used in the United States, proportional representation gives each party a proportion of the legislative seats based on the number of votes its candidates garner.

purposive sample Sample in which respondents are not selected randomly and are not representative of the larger population but are selected precisely because they possess certain characteristics that are of interest to the researcher.

qualitative methods Inductive and inferential means to drawing sociological understanding, usually about less tangible aspects of social life, such as the actual felt experience of social interaction.

quantitative methods Numerical means to drawing sociological conclusions using powerful statistical tools to help understand patterns in which the behaviors, attitudes, or traits under study can be translated into numerical values.

race Social category, still poorly defined, that depends on an assumption of biological distinction to rate and organize social groups.

race to the bottom Bonacich and Appelbaum's term for outsourcing jobs to wherever manufacturers and retailers can pay the lowest possible wages so as to maximize profits.

racism A particularly powerful form of prejudice that includes not only a belief in general stereotypes but also a belief that one race (usually White) is inherently superior to the others. Racism is a prejudice that is systematically applied to members of a group.

radical feminism One of the three main branches of feminism today; moves beyond discrimination economically and politically to argue that women are oppressed and subordinated by men directly, personally, and most often through sexual relations.

random sample A sample chosen by an abstract and arbitrary method, like tossing a piece of paper with each person's name on it into a hat, or selecting every tenth name in a telephone book or every thousandth name on the voter registration list. In this way, each person has an equal chance of being selected.

reference group A group toward which one is so strongly committed, or one that commands so much prestige, that we orient our actions around what we perceive that group's perceptions would be.

relative deprivation Describes how misery is socially experienced by constantly comparing yourself to others. You are not down and out: You are worse off than you used to be (downward mobility), or not as well off as you think you should be, (rising expectations) or, perhaps, not as well off as those you see around you.

religion A set of beliefs about the origins and meaning of life, usually based on the existence a supernatural power.

religiosity The extent of one's religious belief, typically measured by attendance at religious observances or maintaining religious practices.

representative democracy System in which citizens elect representatives to make the decisions for them; requires an educated citizenry and a free press.

resocialization Learning a new set of beliefs, behaviors, and values that depart from those held in the past.

retirement In the developed world, the time when people cease employment and become eligible to collect benefits accrued and/or designated for old age. Formal retirement ages vary from country to country.

revelation A religious way of learning answers to fundamental questions of existence; God, spirits, prophets, or sacred books reveal what we need to know.

revolution The attempt to overthrow the existing political and social order of a society and replace it with a new one.

rites of passage Culturally specific rituals that mark the transitions between life stages.

rituals Enactments by which members of a culture engage in a routine behavior to express their sense of belonging to the culture.

role Behavior expected of people who have a particular status.

role conflict What happens when we try to play different roles with extremely different or contradictory rules at the same time.

role exit The process we go through to adjust when leaving a role that is central to our identity.

role performance The particular emphasis or interpretation each of us gives a social role.

role strain The experience of difficulty in performing a role.

sacred A place, time, object, or person in which the worlds of the spiritual and the worldly come together.

sample A limited group of research subjects whose responses are then statistically developed into a general theme or trend that can be applied to the larger whole.

sandwich generation Popular term for middle-aged adults who are caring for both their young children and their aging parents.

Sapir-Whorf hypothesis A theory that language shapes our reality because it gives us a way to talk about the categories of life that we experience.

scapegoat A convenient, weak and socially approved target for economic or social loss or insecurity.

science The accumulated systematic knowledge of the physical or material world, obtained through experimentation and observation.

scientific literacy According to the National Academy of Sciences, it is the “knowledge and understanding of the scientific concepts and processes required for personal decision making, participation in civic and cultural affairs, and economic productivity.”

second shift The term coined by sociologist Arlie Hochschild to describe how working women typically must work both outside the home for wages and inside the home doing domestic management and childcare.

secondary analysis Analysis conducted on data previously collected from others for other reasons.

secondary deviance The moment when someone acquires a deviant identity, occurring when he or she repeatedly breaks a norm, and people start making a big deal of it, so the rule breaking can no longer be attributed to a momentary lapse in judgment or justifiable under the circumstances but is an indication of a permanent personality trait.

secondary group Co-workers, club members, or another group that comes together for instrumental reasons, such as wanting to work together to meet common goals. Secondary groups make less of an emotional claim on one’s identity than do primary groups.

secondary sex characteristics Those sex characteristics, such as breast development in girls and the lowering of voices and development of facial hair in boys, that occur at puberty.

secondary socialization Occurring throughout the life span, it is the adjustments we make to adapt to new situations.

secondhand smoke The tobacco smoke that is inhaled by nonsmokers as a result of other people smoking; led to public health campaigns to ban smoking in movie theaters, airplanes, restaurants, bars, and all public offices and buildings.

sect A small subculture within an established religious institution.

secularization The process of moving away from religion and toward the worldly.

segregation The practice of physically separating Whites from other races by law and custom in institutions and communities.

self-fulfilling prophecy Term coined by Robert K. Merton in 1949 to name the phenomenon that when you expect something to happen, it usually does.

sex A biological distinction; the chromosomal, chemical, and anatomical organization of males and females.

sex hormones Testosterone and estrogen, the hormones that trigger development of secondary sex characteristics, such as breast development in girls and the development of facial hair in boys.

sex tourism Effectively the globalization of prostitution, a well-organized business whereby the flow of “consumers” (wealthy men) is directed to the “commodities” (poor men and women). Like prostitution, there is far less “choice” on the part of the locals and far more coercion than typically meets the eye. The tourists seem to be men and women who are being friendly and flirtatious, but the locals are usually victims of kidnapping and violence.

sexual behavior Any behavior that brings sexual pleasure or release (typically, but not always, involving sex organs).

sexual harassment A form of gender discrimination in the workplace that singles out women for differential treatment. There are two types: “quid pro quo,” which occurs when a supervisor uses his (or her) position to elicit sexual activity from a subordinate; and the more common “hostile environment,” which occurs when a person feels threatened or unsafe because of constant teasing or threatening by other workers.

sexual identity Refers to an identity that is organized by the gender of the person (or persons) to whom you are sexually attracted. Also called *sexual orientation*.

sexual script Set of ideas and practices that answer basic questions about sexual identity and practices: With whom do we have sex? What do we do? How often? Why?

sexual socialization The process by which your sexual scripts begin to cohere into a preference and sexual identity.

sexuality Identities we construct that are often based on our sexual conduct and often intersect with other sources of identity, such as race, class, ethnicity, age, or gender.

social construction of gender We construct our gender identities all through our lives, using the cultural materials we find around us. Our gender identities are both voluntary—we choose to become who we are—and coerced—we

are pressured, forced, and often physically threatened to conform to certain rules.

social controls As Walter Reckless theorized, people don't commit crimes even if they could probably get away with them due to social controls. There are *outer controls*, family, friends, teachers, social institutions, and authority figures (like the police) who influence (cajole, threaten, browbeat) us into obeying social rules; and *inner controls*, internalized socialization, conscious, religious principles, ideas of right and wrong, and my self-conception as a "good person."

social Darwinism A model of social change that saw each succeeding society as improving on the one before it.

social epidemiology The focus on these social and behavioral factors that influence the causes and distribution of disease and disability.

social interaction The foundation for societal groups and relationships and the process of how people behave and interact with each other.

social mobility The movement from one class to another, it can occur in two forms: *intergenerational* – that is, your parents are working class, but you became lower, or your parents are middle class, but you became upperclass; and *intragenerational* – that is, you move from working to lower, or from middle to upper, all within your lifetime.

social movements Collective attempts to further a common interest or secure a common goal through action outside the sphere of established institutions.

social revolution Revolution that changes the social groups or classes that political power rests on.

Social Security The U.S. government program wherein citizens contribute a small portion of their earnings while working, then collect a cash supplement after retirement. The program has been credited with preventing tens of millions of elderly from living in poverty and hunger.

social stratification Taken from the geological term for layers of rock or "strata," the ranking of people into defined layers. Social stratification exists in all societies and is based on things like wealth, race, and gender.

social structure A complex framework composed of both patterned social interactions and institutions that together both organize social life and provide the context for individual action.

socialism Economic system in which people are meant to cooperate rather than compete, share goods and services, own property collectively, and make decisions as a collective body.

socialization The process by which we become aware of ourselves as part of a group, learn to communicate with others, and learn how to behave as expected.

society An organized collection of individuals and institutions, bounded by space in a coherent territory, subject to the same political authority, and organized through a shared set of cultural expectations and values.

socioeconomic status (SES) Your social connections, your taste in art, your ascribed and attained statuses, and more.

Because there are so many components, sociologists today tend to prefer the concept of *socioeconomic status* to that of social class, to emphasize that people are ranked through the intermingling of many factors, economic, social, political, cultural, and community.

sociological imagination The ability to see the connection between our individual identities and the social contexts (family, friends, and institutions) in which we find ourselves.

sociology The study of human behavior in society.

solidarity Term for one's awareness of membership in a definable category of people, so that there is a clearly defined "us" and "them."

status One's socially defined position in a group; it is often characterized by certain expectations and rights.

stereotypes Generalizations about a group that are oversimplified and exaggerated and that fail to acknowledge individual differences in the group.

stigma An attribute that changes you "from a whole and usual person to a tainted and discounted one," as sociologist Erving Goffman (1963) defined it. A stigma discredits a person's claim to be normal.

stigmatized identity An identity where the individual loses his or her claim to be normal. This leads to a perception that a person or group is somehow responsible for their illness and that it is their fault.

strain theory Robert K. Merton's concept that excessive deviance is a by-product of inequality within societies that promote certain norms and versions of social reality yet provide unequal means of meeting or attaining them. Individuals respond to this strain either by conforming or by changing the goals or means of obtaining goals accepted by society.

stratified sample Sample in which research subjects are divided into proportions equal to the proportions found in the population at large.

structural functionalism A sociological paradigm that contends that all social life consists of several distinct, integrated levels that enable the world—and individuals who are within it—to find stability, order, and meaning.

subculture Group within a society that creates its own norms and values distinct from the mainstream and usually its own separate social institutions as well.

subjectivity The complex of individual perceptions, motivations, ideas, and emotions that give each of us a point of view.

subordinate Individual or group that possesses little or comparatively less social power.

subtle racism Systematic prejudice applied to members of a group in quiet or even unconscious ways; a simple set of mental categories that one may possess about a group based on stereotypes.

suburb A residential community outside of a city but always existing in relationship to the city.

suffrage The right to vote.

superego Freud's term for the internalized norms, values, and "rules" of our social group that are learned from family, friends, and social institutions.

superordinate Individual or group that possesses social power.

surveys Research method in which one asks a sample of people closed-ended questions and tabulates the results.

symbol Anything—an idea, a marking, a thing—that carries additional meanings beyond itself to other who share in the culture. Symbols come to mean what they do only in a culture; they would have no meaning to someone outside.

symbolic interactionism Sociological perspective that examines how individuals and groups interact, focusing on the creation of personal identity through interaction with others. Of particular interest is the relationship between individual action and group pressures.

syncretic religions Religions that do not forbid one's practicing other religions at the same time, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, and others.

taboos The strongest form of norms, these are prohibitions viewed as essential to the well-being of humanity

terrorism Using acts of violence and destruction (or threatening to use them) as a political strategy.

tertiary deviance Occurs when members of a group formerly labeled deviant attempt to redefine their acts, attributes, or identities as normal—even virtuous.

the sick role Talcott Parsons described the social expectations for both the sick individual and those with whom the individual interacts. The sick role is a social contract where the sick person has to try to get better in order to receive the social benefits of being sick.

third great awakening What some term a current religious revival in the United States that further democratizes spirituality, making a relationship with the sacred attainable to even greater numbers of Americans, with even less effort or religious discipline.

time-series study A study that involves tracking a variable over time.

token Representative of a traditionally disenfranchised group whose hypervisibility results in constant pressure to reflect well on his or her group and to outperform co-workers just to be perceived as equal.

tokenism When a single member of a minority group is present in an office, workplace, or classroom and is seen as a representative of that minority group rather than as an individual.

total institution An institution that completely circumscribes your everyday life, cutting you off from life before you entered and seeking to regulate every part of your behavior.

totalitarianism A political system in which no organized opposition is permitted and political information is censored.

tracking Common in American schools, this system groups students according to their scholastic ability. Tracking can be formal or informal, but virtually all schools have mechanisms for sorting students into groups that seem to be alike in ability and achievement. Labeling is often a by-product of tracking.

traditional authority Dominant in premodern societies, including ancient Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica, the form of authority that people obey because, they believed, their society had always done things that way; derives from who the leaders are: the descendants of kings and queens, or perhaps the descendants of the gods, not from their educational background, work experience, or personality traits.

transgenderism Transgendered people have felt a "persistent discomfort and sense of inappropriateness about their assigned sex (feeling trapped in the wrong body)" as the diagnosis in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual* (DSM III) puts it, and rather than change their gender, they change their biological sex to match their felt gender identity.

twixters Popular term coined to name people in their twenties who still live culturally as job-free, home-free, spouse-free, responsibility-free adolescents.

two-party system State in which two political parties dominate. Other parties may exist, but they are largely inconsequential.

underclass About 4 percent of the U.S. population, this group has no income, no connection to the job market, little education, inadequate nutrition, and substandard housing or none at all. They have no possibility of social mobility and little chance of achieving the quality of life that most people would consider minimally acceptable.

universal suffrage Granting of the vote to any and all citizens who meet specified, universal criteria, such as legal citizenship and a minimum age.

utilitarian organization Organization like the college we attend or the company we work for, whose members belong for a specific, instrumental purpose or tangible material reward.

values If norms tell us *how* to behave, values tell us *why*. Values constitute what a society thinks about itself and so are among the most basic lessons that a culture can transmit to its young.

verstehen Max Weber's term for "intersubjective understanding," or the ability to understand social behavior from the point of view of those the sociologist is observing.

violent crime A crime of violence or one in which violence is a defining feature. According to the FBI, violent crime consists of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

voucher system First proposed in 1955, a free-market approach to school reform in which taxpayer funds are used to pay for students' tuition at private school, ostensibly upping competition and increasing quality in public schools.

wage labor The arrangement by which workers get a regular paycheck in exchange for performing a specific task, rather than being paid for the end product of their labor.

white-collar crime Edward Sutherland's term for the illegal actions of a corporation or people acting on its behalf, by using the authority of their position to commit crime.

world religions Those religions with long histories, well-established traditions, and the flexibility to adapt to many different cultures.

world system theory Immanuel Wallerstein's theory that the interconnectedness of the world system began in the 1500s, when Europeans began their economic and political

domination of the rest of the world. Because capitalism depends on generating the maximum profits for the minimum of expenditures, the world system continues to benefit rich countries (which acquire the profits) and harm the rest of the world (by minimizing local expenditures and therefore perpetuating poverty).

zero population growth Paul Erlich's (1968) modern solution to the Malthus's concerns, it entails a global effort to ensure that the number of births does not exceed the number of deaths, providing global population stability, a decrease in poor countries, and a redistribution of resources to those countries.