

Study Questions, Week 1

- (1) Provide a definition of the term "sociology." What are the primary topics which sociologists study? What can you expect to learn in this course?
 - (2) What is meant by the "sociological imagination?" How does one develop a sociological imagination? What value does the sociological imagination have for an individual?
 - (3) What role does science play in the study of sociology? What role does common sense play?
 - (4) What is a theory? Provide an example of a sociological theory. What is the value of a theory?
 - (5) Identify each of the following sociologists, and provide an explanation of concepts and ideas that they contributed to the study of society:
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Max Weber
 - Karl Marx
- What were the most important books written by each?
- (6) Identify other important individuals in the development of sociology, and describe their contributions to the discipline.
 - (7) What are the key elements of the *functionalist* perspective? Who are some important functionalist theorists?
 - (8) What are the key elements of the *conflict* perspective? Who are some important conflict theorists?
 - (9) What are the key elements of the *interactionist* perspective? Who are some important interactionist theorists?
 - (10) Why do these three different perspectives exist? Why do sociologists study society from different approaches?