

Introduction to **Sociology** • Henry L. Tischler



TENTH EDITION

TENTH EDITION

INTRODUCTION TO
SOCIOLOGY

HENRY L. TISCHLER

Framingham State College



Australia • Brazil • Japan • Korea • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States



**Introduction to Sociology,
Tenth Edition**
Henry Tischler

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*What I know about society could fill a book.
What I don't would fill the world.*

*Dedicated to my fellow travelers in the journey of life—
Linda, Melissa, and Ben.*

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Contents in Brief

Preface	xv
About the Author	xxi
A Word to the Student	xxiii

PART ONE The Study of Society 1

1	The Sociological Perspective	2
2	Doing Sociology: Research Methods	28

PART TWO The Individual in Society 50

3	Culture	50
4	Socialization and Development	74
5	Social Interaction	102
6	Social Groups and Organizations	120
7	Deviant Behavior and Social Control	138

PART THREE Social Inequality 174

8	Social Class in the United States	174
9	Global Stratification	196
10	Racial and Ethnic Minorities	216
11	Gender Stratification	246

PART FOUR Institutions 266

12	Marriage and Alternative Family Arrangements	266
13	Religion	294
14	Education	320
15	Political and Economic Systems	342

PART FIVE Social Change and Social Issues 364

16	Population and Urban Society	364
17	Health and Aging	392
18	Collective Behavior and Social Change	416

Glossary	437
References	447
Index	469
Practice Tests	485
Practice Test Answers	555

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Contents

Preface xv
About the Author xxi
A Word to the wStudent xxiii

PART ONE

The Study of Society 1

CHAPTER

1 The Sociological Perspective 2

Sociology as a Point of View 4

The Sociological Imagination 5
Is Sociology Common Sense? 7
Sociology and Science 7
Sociology as a Social Science 7

The Development of Sociology 11

Auguste Comte (1798–1857) 11
Harriet Martineau (1802–1876) 11
Herbert Spencer (1820–1903) 12
Karl Marx (1818–1883) 13
Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) 14
Max Weber (1864–1920) 16
The Development of Sociology in the United States 17

Theoretical Perspectives 19

Functionalism 19
Conflict Theory 19
The Interactionist Perspective 20
Symbolic Interactionism 20
Contemporary Sociology 22
Theory and Research 22

Summary 22

How Sociologists Do It If You Are Thinking About Sociology as a Career, Read This 6
Day-to-Day Sociology Too Smart to Marry? 8
How Sociologists Do It Is There a Difference between Sociology and Journalism? 10
Our Diverse Society Who Is at Most Risk for Suicide? 16
Sociology in Strange Places What Do People Do Online? 21

CHAPTER

2 Doing Sociology: Research Methods 28

The Research Process 29

Define the Problem 30
Review Previous Research 31
Develop One or More Hypotheses 32
Determine the Research Design 33
Define the Sample and Collect Data 35

Analyze the Data and Draw Conclusions 39

Prepare the Research Report 41

Objectivity in Sociological Research 43

Ethical Issues in Sociological Research 43

Summary 45

How Sociologists Do It How to Spot a Bogus Poll 38

Day-to-Day Sociology Truth in the Courtroom versus Truth in the Social Sciences 40

How Sociologists Do It How to Read a Table 42

Sociology in Strange Places Famous Research Studies You Cannot Do Today 44

PART TWO

The Individual in Society 50

CHAPTER

3 Culture 50

The Concept of Culture 51

Culture and Biology 52
Culture Shock 52
Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism 53

Components of Culture 54

Material Culture 54
Nonmaterial Culture 55
The Origin of Language 57
Language and Culture 59

The Symbolic Nature of Culture 60

Symbols and Culture 60

Culture and Adaptation 62

Mechanisms of Cultural Change 62
Cultural Lag 63
Animals and Culture 63

Subcultures 64

Types of Subcultures 64

Universals of Culture 65

The Division of Labor 65
Marriage, the Family, and the Incest Taboo 66
Rites of Passage 66
Ideology 66

Culture and Individual Choice 67

Summary 70

Global Sociology Struggling to Accept the Jury System 54

Global Sociology Is There a Culture Clash between the United States and Saudi Arabia? 58

Day-to-Day Sociology Symbols in Cyberspace 60

Sociology in Strange Places Doing Research in a War Zone 67

How Sociologists Do It The Conflict between Being a Researcher and Being a Human Being 68

CHAPTER

4 Socialization and Development 74**Becoming a Person: Biology and Culture 75**

Nature versus Nurture: A False Debate 76

Sociobiology 76

Deprivation and Development 79

The Concept of Self 80

Dimensions of Human Development 81

Theories of Development 83

Charles Horton Cooley (1864–1929) 83

George Herbert Mead (1863–1931) 83

Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) 84

Erik H. Erikson (1902–1994) 84

Early Socialization in American Society 85

The Family 86

The School 86

Peer Groups 88

Television, Movies, and Video Games 90

Adult Socialization 92

Marriage and Responsibility 93

Parenthood 93

Career Development: Vocation and Identity 93

Aging and Society 94**Summary 95***Sociology in Strange Places* Can Socialization Make a Boy into a Girl? 77*Day-to-Day Sociology* Does Day Care Create Unruly Brats? 87*Our Diverse Society* Win Friends and Lose Your Future: The Costs of Not “Acting White” 89*Day-to-Day Sociology* Television Made You the Designated Driver 91*Global Sociology* To Succeed in Japan, Give All the Credit to Your Boss 94

CHAPTER

5 Social Interaction 102**Understanding Social Interaction 103**

Contexts 104

Norms 104

Ethnomethodology 106

Dramaturgy 106

Types of Social Interaction 107

Nonverbal Behavior 107

Exchange 109

Cooperation 109

Conflict 109

Competition 109

Elements of Social Interaction 110

Statuses 110

Roles 112

Role Sets 113

Role Strain 114

Role Conflict 114

Role Playing 115

Summary 115*Global Sociology* Cross-Cultural Social Interaction Quiz 105*Day-to-Day Sociology* Can You Spot a Liar? 107*News You Can Use* Laugh and the World Laughs with You 110

CHAPTER

6 Social Groups and Organizations 120**The Nature of Groups 121**

Primary and Secondary Groups 122

Functions of Groups 124

Defining Boundaries 124

Choosing Leaders 124

Making Decisions 125

Setting Goals 125

Assigning Tasks 125

Controlling Members' Behavior 125

Reference Groups 125

Small Groups 127

Large Groups: Associations 127

Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft 128

Mechanical and Organic Solidarity 130

Bureaucracy 131

Weber's Model of Bureaucracy: An Ideal Type 131

Bureaucracy Today: The Reality 132

The Iron Law of Oligarchy 132

Institutions and Social Organization 132

Social Institutions 133

Social Organization 133

Summary 134*Sociology in Strange Places* Are You Really My Friend? Facebook and Intimate Communication 123*How Sociologists Do It* Can One Bad Apple Spoil the Whole Group? 126*Day-to-Day Sociology* The Strength of the Informal Structure in Job Hunting 129*Our Diverse Society* Limiting Technology to Save the Community 130

CHAPTER

7 Deviant Behavior and Social Control 138**Defining Normal and Deviant Behavior 139**

Making Moral Judgments 140

The Functions of Deviance 140

The Dysfunctions of Deviance 140

Mechanisms of Social Control 141

Internal Means of Control 141

External Means of Control: Sanctions 141

Theories of Crime and Deviance 143

Biological Theories of Deviance 143

Psychological Theories of Deviance 145

Sociological Theories of Deviance 146

The Importance of Law 150

The Emergence of Laws 150

Crime in the United States 152

Crime Statistics 153

Kinds of Crime in the United States 155

Juvenile Crime 155
 Violent Crime 156
 Property Crime 156
 White-Collar Crime 156
 Victimless Crime 156
 Victims of Crime 158

Criminal Justice in the United States 159

The Police 159
 The Courts 160
 Prisons 160
 A Shortage of Prisons 165
 Women in Prison 165
 The Funnel Effect 166
 Truth in Sentencing 166

Summary 167

How Sociologists Do It It's the Little Things That Matter in Preventing Crime 151
How Sociologists Do It: Serial Murderers and Mass Murderers 157
Sociology in Strange Places Are Peaceful Pot Smokers Being Sent to Prison? 158
Global Sociology A Bad Country in Which to Be a Criminal 161
Sociology in Strange Places: The Continuing Debate Over Capital Punishment: Does It Deter Murderers? 162

PART THREE

Social Inequality 174

CHAPTER

8 Social Class in the United States 174

The American Class Structure 175

The Upper Class 176
 The Upper-Middle Class 176
 The Middle-Middle Class 176
 The Lower-Middle Class 177
 The Lower Class 177
 Income Distribution 177

Poverty 179

The Feminization of Poverty 180
 How Do We Count the Poor? 180
 Myths about the Poor 182
 Government Assistance Programs 183
 The Changing Face of Poverty 183

Consequences of Social Stratification 184

Why Does Social Inequality Exist? 186
 The Functionalist Theory 187
 Conflict Theory 188
 Modern Conflict Theory 189
 The Need for Synthesis 191

Summary 192

Our diverse society How Much Are You Responsible for Your Success? 178
How sociologists do it Where Do the Poor Live Today? 183
Global Sociology Rich Countries with Poor Children 185
Our diverse society How Easy Is It to Change Social Class? 190

CHAPTER

9 Global Stratification 196

Stratification Systems 198

The Caste System 198
 The Estate System 199
 The Class System 200

Theories of Global Stratification 200

Modernization Theory 200
 Dependency Theory 201

Global Diversity 201

World Health Trends 201
 The Health of Infants and Children in Developing Countries 202
 HIV/AIDS 204
 Population Trends 204

Summary 211

Global Sociology How Countries Differ—Japan and Nigeria 198
Sociology in Strange places Life Chances of an Adolescent Girl in Liberia 201
Global Sociology HIV/AIDS, Worldwide Facts 205
Global Sociology Where Are the Baby Girls? 209

CHAPTER

10 Racial and Ethnic Minorities 216

The Concept of Race 218

Genetic Definitions 218
 Legal Definitions 219
 Social Definitions 219

The Concept of Ethnic Group 221

The Concept of Minority 222

Problems in Race and Ethnic Relations 222

Prejudice 222
 Discrimination 223
 Institutional Prejudice and Discrimination 224
 Patterns of Racial and Ethnic Relations 224
 Assimilation 225
 Pluralism 225
 Subjugation 227
 Segregation 228
 Expulsion 228
 Annihilation 228

Racial and Ethnic Immigration to the United States 230

Immigration Today Compared with the Past 230
 Illegal Immigration 232

America's Ethnic Composition Today 233

White Anglo-Saxon Protestants 234
 African Americans 234
 Hispanics (Latinos) 235
 Asian Americans 238
 Native Americans 240
 A Diverse Society 241

Summary 241

Our Diverse Society How Many Minorities Are There? 223
Our Diverse Society Will English Continue to Be the Language of the United States? 226
Global Sociology In the Future, Minorities Will Be the New Majority 232
Sociology in Strange Places Hispanics, Racial Group? Ethnic Group? Neither? 236

CHAPTER

11 Gender Stratification 246**Are the Sexes Separate and Unequal? 247**

- Historical Views 247
- Religious Views 248
- Biological Views 250
- Gender and Sex 253
- Sociological View: Cross-Cultural Evidence 253

What Produces Gender Inequality? 254

- The Functionalist Viewpoint 254
- The Conflict Theory Viewpoint 255

Gender-Role Socialization 255

- Childhood Socialization 255
- Adolescent Socialization 256
- Gender Differences in Social Interaction 256

Gender Inequality and Work 258

- Job Discrimination 259

Summary 261

- Sociology in Strange Places* Let Women Vote and You Will Get Masculine Women and Effeminate Men 249
- Our Diverse Society* Why Do Women Live Longer Than Men? 252
- Day-to-Day Sociology* Speaking, Writing, or Blogging—Nowhere to Hide Gender 258
- Our Diverse Society* Who Is a Better Boss? 260

PART FOUR**Institutions 266**

CHAPTER

12 Marriage and Alternative Family Arrangements 266**The Nature of Family Life 268**

- Functions of the Family 268
- Family Structures 269

Defining Marriage 270

- Romantic Love 270
- Marriage Rules 270
- Marital Residence 271
- Mate Selection 271

The Transformation of the Family 275

- The Decline of the Traditional Family 276
- Changes in the Marriage Rate 276
- Cohabitation 277
- Childless Couples 278
- Changes in Household Size 278
- Women in the Labor Force 279
- Family Violence 279
- Divorce 280
- Divorce Laws 281
- Child Custody Laws 283
- Remarriage and Stepfamilies 284

Family Diversity 285

- The Growing Single Population 285
- Single-Parent Families 286
- Gay and Lesbian Couples 288

The Future: Bright or Dismal? 289**Summary 289**

- Day-to-Day Sociology: Marriage and Divorce Quiz* 274
- How Sociologists Do It: Do 50 Percent of All Marriages Really End in Divorce?* 282
- Sociology in Strange Places: Reluctant to Marry—The Men Who Want to Stay Single* 286

CHAPTER

13 Religion 294**The Nature of Religion 295**

- The Elements of Religion 296

Magic 298**Major Types of Religions 298**

- Supernaturalism 298
- Animism 299
- Theism 299
- Monotheism 299
- Abstract Ideals 300

A Sociological Approach to Religion 300

- The Functionalist Perspective 300
- The Conflict Theory Perspective 303

Organization of Religious Life 305

- The Universal Church 305
- The Ecclesia 305
- The Denomination 305
- The Sect 305
- Millenarian Movements 306

Aspects of American Religion 307

- Religious Diversity 307
- Widespread Belief 307
- Secularism 308
- Ecumenism 308

Major Religions in the United States 308

- Protestantism 310
- Catholicism 311
- Judaism 313
- Islam 314
- Social Aspects of Religious Affiliation 315

Summary 317

- Our Diverse Society* Who Is God? 297
- Global Sociology* The Worst Offenders of Religious Freedom 304
- Day-to-Day Sociology* Today's Cult Might Be Tomorrow's Mainstream Religion 306
- How Sociologists Do It* Is Your Professor an Atheist? 309
- Our Diverse Society* Changing Religion Early and Often 311
- Sociology in Strange Places* Worshipping with a Few Thousand of Your Friends 312

CHAPTER

14 Education 320**Education: A Functionalist View 321**

- Socialization 321
- Cultural Transmission 322
- Academic Skills 322
- Innovation 325

- Child Care 325
- Postponing Job Hunting 325
- The Conflict Theory View 326**
 - Social Control 326
 - Screening and Allocation: Tracking 327
 - The Credentialized Society 328
- Issues in American Education 329**
 - Unequal Access to Education 329
 - Students Who Speak English as a Second Language 331
 - High School Dropouts 331
 - Violence in the Schools 333
 - Home Schooling 333
 - Standardized Testing 334
 - Gender Bias in the Classroom 335
 - The Gifted 336
- Summary 337**
 - Answers to Key Thinkers 341
 - Sociology in Strange Places: When Race, Money, and Education Collide* 324
 - Global Sociology: Illiteracy is Common throughout the World* 327
 - Day-to-Day Sociology: Is a College Degree Worth the Trouble?* 329

CHAPTER

15 Political and Economic Systems 342

- Politics, Power, and Authority 344**
 - Power 344
 - Political Authority 344
- Government and the State 345**
 - Functions of the State 345
- Types of States 346**
 - Autocracy 346
 - Totalitarianism 346
 - Democracy 347
- Functionalist and Conflict Theory Views of the State 347**
- The Economy and the State 348**
 - Capitalism 348
 - The Marxist Response to Capitalism 350
 - Socialism 350
 - The Capitalist View of Socialism 351
 - Democratic Socialism 351
- Political Change 352**
 - Institutionalized Political Change 352
 - Rebellions 352
 - Revolutions 353
- The American Political System 354**
 - The Two-Party System 354
 - Voting Behavior 354
 - African Americans as a Political Force 357
 - Hispanics as a Political Force 357
 - The Role of the Media 358
 - Special-Interest Groups 358
- Summary 360**
 - Day-to-Day Sociology: Eat Your Fresh Fruit and Vegetables or Pay a Fine* 349
 - Global Sociology: Does Suicide Terrorism Make Sense?* 353

Sociology in Strange Places: I Know It's Not True, But I'm Not Voting for Him Anyway 355

PART FIVE**Social Change and Social Issues 364**

CHAPTER

16 Population and Urban Society 364

- Population Dynamics 365**
 - Fertility 367
 - Mortality 367
 - Migration 368
- Theories of Population 369**
 - Malthus's Theory of Population Growth 369
 - Marx's Theory of Population Growth 370
 - Demographic Transition Theory 370
 - A Second Demographic Transition 371
- Population Growth and the Environment 373**
 - Sources of Optimism 376
- Urbanization and the Development of Cities 376**
 - The Earliest Cities 377
 - Preindustrial Cities 378
 - Industrial Cities 378
 - The Structure of Cities 379
- The Nature of Urban Life 381**
 - Social Interaction in Urban Areas 382
 - Urban Neighborhoods 382
 - Urban Decline 382
 - Homelessness 383
- Future Urban Growth in the United States 384**
 - Suburban Living 384
 - Exurbs 386
- Summary 386**
 - Answers to Key Thinkers 390
 - Sociology in Strange Places: Do Men Without Women Become Violent?* 372
 - Global Sociology: What If the Population Problem Is Not Enough People?* 374
 - Day-to-Day Sociology: Pay For Something You Can Get For Free and Hurt the Environment at the Same Time* 375

CHAPTER

17 Health and Aging 392

- The Experience of Illness 393**
 - Health Care in the United States 394
 - Gender and Health 394
 - Race and Health 396
 - Social Class and Health 397
 - Age and Health 397
 - Education and Health 398
 - Women in Medicine 398
- Contemporary Health Care Issues 400**
 - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome 400
 - Health Insurance 401
 - Preventing Illness 402

The Aging Population 404

- Composition of the Older Population 406
- Aging and the Sex Ratio 406
- Aging and Race 406
- Aging and Marital Status 406
- Aging and Wealth 407
- Global Aging 408
- Future Trends 409

Summary 410

- Global Sociology* Women Live Longer than Men throughout the World 395
- Our Diverse Society* Why Isn't Life Expectancy in the United States Higher? 398
- Day-to-Day Sociology* Marijuana: A Benign Drug or a Health Problem? 399
- How Sociologists Do It* Can Your Friends Make You Fat? 403
- Sociology in Strange Places* The Discovery of a Disease 405
- Our Diverse Society* Stereotypes About the Elderly 408
- Global Sociology* Global Aging Quiz 409

CHAPTER

18 Collective Behavior and Social Change 416**Society and Social Change 417**

- Sources of Social Change 418
- Internal Sources of Social Change 418
- External Sources of Social Change 420

Crowd Behavior and Social Change 420

- Attributes of Crowds 421

Types of Crowds 421

The Changeable Nature of Crowds 422

Dispersed Collective Behavior 422

- Fads and Fashions 422
- Rumors 424
- Public Opinion 424
- Mass Hysteria and Panic 425

Social Movements 426

- Relative Deprivation Theory 426
- Resource Mobilization Theory 427
- Types of Social Movements 427
- The Life Cycle of Social Movements 428

Globalization and Social Change 429**Social Change in the United States 430**

- Technological Change 431
- The Workforce of the Future 431

Summary 432

- Answers to Key Thinkers 436
- Sociology in Strange Places: Predicting the Future of Computers—1967* 419
- How Sociologists Do It: Coming Together but Staying Apart* 419
- Global Sociology: Big Profits from Small Hands* 430

Glossary 437

References 447

Index 469

Practice Tests 485

Practice Test Answers 555

Boxed Features



DAY TO DAY SOCIOLOGY

- Too Smart to Marry? 8
- Truth in the Courtroom versus Truth in the Social Sciences 40
- Symbols in Cyberspace 60
- Does Day Care Create Unruly Brats? 87
- Television Made You the Designated Driver 91
- Can You Spot a Liar? 107
- The Strength of the Informal Structure in Job Hunting 129
- Speaking, Writing, or Blogging—Nowhere to Hide Gender 258
- Marriage and Divorce Quiz 274
- Today's Cult Might Be Tomorrow's Mainstream Religion 306
- Is a College Degree Worth the Trouble? 329
- Eat Your Fresh Fruit and Vegetables or Pay a Fine 349
- Pay For Something You Can Get For Free and Hurt the Environment at the Same Time 375
- Marijuana: A Benign Drug or a Health Problem? 399



HOW SOCIOLOGISTS DO IT

- If You Are Thinking About Sociology as a Career, Read This 6
- Is There a Difference between Sociology and Journalism? 10
- How to Spot a Bogus Poll 38
- How to Read a Table 42
- The Conflict between Being a Researcher and Being a Human Being 68
- Can One Bad Apple Spoil the Whole Group? 126
- It's the Little Things That Matter in Preventing Crime 151
- Serial Murderers and Mass Murderers 157
- Where Do the Poor Live Today? 183
- Do 50 Percent of All Marriages Really End in Divorce? 282
- Is Your Professor an Atheist? 309
- Can Your Friends Make You Fat? 403
- Coming Together but Staying Apart 419



SOCIOLOGY IN STRANGE PLACES

- What Do People Do Online? 21
- Famous Research Studies You Cannot Do Today 44
- Doing Research in a War Zone 67
- Can Socialization Make a Boy into a Girl? 77
- Are You Really My Friend? Facebook and Intimate Communication 123
- Are Peaceful Pot Smokers Being Sent to Prison? 158
- The Continuing Debate Over Capital Punishment: Does It Deter Murderers? 162
- Life Chances of an Adolescent Girl in Liberia 201
- Hispanics—Racial Group? Ethnic Group? Neither? 236
- Let Women Vote and You Will Get Masculine Women and Effeminate Men 249
- Reluctant to Marry—The Men Who Want to Stay Single 286
- Worshipping with a Few Thousand of Your Friends 312
- When Race, Money, and Education Collide 324
- I Know It's Not True, But I'm Not Voting for Him Anyway 355
- Do Men Without Women Become Violent? 372
- The Discovery of a Disease 405
- Predicting the Future of Computers—1967 419



GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY

- Struggling to Accept the Jury System 54
- Is There a Culture Clash between the United States and Saudi Arabia? 58
- To Succeed in Japan, Give All the Credit to Your Boss 94
- Cross-Cultural Social Interaction Quiz 105
- A Bad Country in Which to Be a Criminal 161
- Rich Countries with Poor Children 185
- How Countries Differ—Japan and Nigeria 198
- HIV/AIDS, Worldwide Facts 205
- Where Are the Baby Girls? 209
- In the Future, Minorities Will Be the New Majority 232

- The Worst Offenders of Religious Freedom **304**
Illiteracy is Common throughout the World **327**
Does Suicide Terrorism Make Sense? **353**
What If the Population Problem Is Not Enough
People? **374**
Women Live Longer than Men throughout the
World **395**
Global Aging Quiz **409**
Big Profits from Small Hands **430**



OUR DIVERSE SOCIETY

- Who Is at Most Risk for Suicide? **16**
Win Friends and Lose Your Future: The Costs of Not
“Acting White” **89**
Limiting Technology to Save the Community **130**
How Much Are You Responsible for Your
Success? **178**
How Easy Is It to Change Social
Class? **190**
How Many Minorities Are There? **223**
Will English Continue to Be the Language of the United
States? **226**
Why Do Women Live Longer Than Men? **252**
Who Is a Better Boss? **260**
Who Is God? **297**
Changing Religion Early and Often **311**
Why Isn’t Life Expectancy in the United States
Higher? **398**
Stereotypes About the Elderly **408**

Preface

As a freshman at Temple University, my first experience with a college textbook was in my sociology course. I dutifully read the assigned chapter during my first week of class, hoping to become familiar with the subject matter of this required course. The only problem was that I had no idea what the author was saying. The writing level was advanced, the style dense, and the book downright threatening, without photos or illustrations. After several hours of reading, I felt frustrated and stupid, and I knew no more about sociology than when I started.

If this was what college was going to be like, I was not going to make it, I thought. I remember admitting reluctantly that I was probably not what guidance counselors in that day referred to as “college material.” I could picture myself dropping out after the first semester and looking for a job selling furniture or driving a cab. My family would be disappointed, but my father was a factory worker, and there was no family history of college attendance to live up to. I continued to struggle with the book and earned a D on the midterm exam. After much effort, I managed to finish the course with a C and a burning disinterest in the field of sociology. I did not take another sociology course for two years and, when I did, it was “Marriage and the Family,” considered the easiest course on campus.

I often wonder how I came from this inauspicious beginning to become a sociology professor, let alone the author of a widely used introductory sociology textbook. Then again, maybe it is not all that unusual, because that experience continues to have an effect on me each day. Those fifteen weeks helped develop my view that little is to be gained by presenting knowledge in an incomprehensible or unnecessarily complicated way or by making yourself unapproachable. Pompous instructors and intimidating books are a disservice to education. Learning should be an exciting, challenging, and eye-opening experience, not a threatening one.

One of the real benefits of writing ten editions of this textbook is that I have periodically examined every concept and theory presented in an introductory course. In doing so, I have approached the subject matter through a new set of eyes and have consistently tried to find better ways of presenting the material. As instructors, we rarely venture into each other’s classrooms and hardly ever do we receive honest, highly detailed, and constructive criticism of how well we are transmitting the subject matter. In writing a textbook, we receive this type of information, and we can radically restructure or simply fine-tune our presentation. It is quite an edu-

cation for those of us who have devoted our careers to teaching sociology.

● STUDENT-ORIENTED EDITION

Before revising this edition of *Introduction to Sociology*, we surveyed dozens of instructors to find out what they wanted in a textbook and what would assist them in teaching sociology as well as satisfy student needs. The tenth edition of this book reflects their significant input. In the surveys for this and past editions, we learned that both students and instructors were concerned about the cost of textbooks. To contain costs, the book is softcover instead of hardcover.

Instructors and students also wanted the book to contain material that assisted in learning the material. The book includes a full, built-in study guide that is as extensive, if not more so, than those typically sold separately. In this way, students will be able to purchase the combined textbook and study guide for considerably less than the price of a typical textbook. In fact, the price for this textbook/study guide combination will most likely be lower than the used-copy price of a typical hardcover introductory sociology textbook.

● PRESENTATION

At the end of my sophomore year, I was on academic probation. I went to the college counseling center for advice. A well-meaning counselor asked me what my career goal was. I told him I wanted to be a college professor. To his credit he did not laugh or encourage me to think of something more in keeping with my 1.91 GPA. I might not have been good student, but I was fascinated by what college had to offer. Where else could you be exposed to so much about a world that is so interesting? Belatedly, I began to realize that a great deal of what is interesting falls into the field of sociology. My goal in this book is to demonstrate the vitality, interest, and utility associated with the study of sociology. Examining society and trying to understand how it works is an exciting and absorbing process. I have not set out to make sociologists of my readers (although if that happens I will be delighted) but, rather, to show how sociology applies to many areas of life and how it is used in day-to-day activities. In meeting this objective, I have focused on two basic ideas: that sociology is a rigorous scientific discipline and that a basic knowledge of sociology is essential for understanding social interaction in many settings,

whether they be work or social. To understand society, we need to understand how it shapes people and how people in turn shape society.

Each chapter in this book progresses from a specific to a general analysis of society. Each part introduces increasingly more comprehensive factors necessary for a broad-based understanding of social organization.

The material is presented through consistently applied learning aids. Each chapter begins with a chapter outline and learning objectives. Then, a thought-provoking opening vignette offers a real-life story of the concepts being covered. Key terms are presented in boldfaced type in the text. Key concepts are presented in italicized type in the text. A chapter summary concludes each chapter. An integrated study guide follows each chapter. A full glossary is in the back of the book for further reference. A practice-test section completes the book.

Great care has been taken to structure the book to permit flexibility in the presentation of the material. Each chapter is self-contained and, therefore, may be taught in any order.

It has taken nearly two years to produce this revision. Every aspect of this book has been updated, and a great deal has been changed. The information is as current and up to date as possible, and there are hundreds of 2007 through 2009 references throughout the book.

● A COMPARATIVE AND CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Sociology is a highly organized discipline shaped by several theoretical perspectives or schools of thought. It is not merely the study of social problems or the random voicing of opinions. In this book, no single perspective is given greater emphasis; a balanced presentation of both functionalist theory and conflict theory is supplemented whenever possible by the symbolic interactionist viewpoint.

The book has received a great deal of praise for being cross-cultural in approach and for bringing in examples from a wide variety of societies. Sociology is concerned with the interactions of people wherever and whenever they occur. It would be shortsighted, therefore, to concentrate on only our own society. Often, in fact, the best way to appreciate our own situation is through comparison with other societies. I try to use the cross-cultural focus as a basis for comparison and contrast with U.S. society.

● FEATURES

Opening Vignettes

Each chapter begins with a lively vignette that introduces students to the subject matter of the chapter. Many of

these are from real-life events to which students can relate, such as the scientific validity of the claim that there are many child predators lurking on the Internet (Chapter 1), whether binge drinking is really a problem on college campuses (Chapter 2), socialization during Marine Corps basic training (Chapter 4), the roles names play in our identity (Chapter 6), the depiction of gender in Hollywood films (Chapter 11), the public's views on whether marriage should be a lifetime commitment (Chapter 12), and the personal impact of prenatal screening (Chapter 17). Others deal with unusual circumstances that remind students that there is a wide range of events to which sociology applies. Examples include the eccentric soprano Florence Foster Jenkins (Chapter 7), whites who claim to be black (Chapter 10), and the role of proverbs in education (Chapter 14).

Theme Boxes

Thought-provoking boxed features bring sociological concepts to life for students. This effective learning tool presents sociological concepts in interesting real-life contexts. There are more than thirty-five new boxes in this edition. Other boxes that appeared previously have been substantially changed. You will find five types of boxes in this edition—Day-to-Day Sociology, How Sociologists Do It, Our Diverse Society, Sociology in Strange Places, and Global Sociology.

Day-to-Day Sociology These boxed features examine a trend or interesting sociological research that has a connection to students' lives. The instructor will be able to discuss these with an eye toward showing the relevance of sociology to everyday life. Included in this section are such topics as "Too Smart to Marry?" "Truth in the Courtroom versus Truth in the Social Sciences," "Symbols in Cyberspace," "Does Day Care Create Unruly Brats?" "Television Made You the Designated Driver," "Can You Spot a Liar?" "Laugh and the World Laughs with You," "The Strength of the Informal Structure in Job Hunting," and "Speaking, Writing, or Blogging—Nowhere to Hide Gender," "Marriage and Divorce Quiz," "Today's Cult Might Be Tomorrow's Mainstream Religion," "Is a College Degree Worth the Trouble?" "Eat Your Fresh Fruit and Vegetables or Pay a Fine," "Pay for Something You Can Get For Free and Hurt the Environment at the Same Time," and "Marijuana: A Benign Drug or A Health Problem?"

How Sociologists Do It Social research is an important part of sociology. In this section, we present a variety of studies that help expand our knowledge of the social world. Included are "Is There a Difference between Sociology and Journalism?" "If You Are Thinking about Sociology as a Career, Read This," "How to Spot a Bogus Poll," "How to Read a Table," "The Conflict between Being a Researcher and Being

a Human Being,” “Can One Bad Apple Spoil the Whole Group?” “It’s the Little Things That Matter in Preventing Crime,” “Serial Murderers and Mass Murderers,” “Where Do the Poor Live Today?” “Do 50 Percent of All Marriages Really End in Divorce?” “Is Your Professor an Atheist?” “Can Your Friends Make You Fat?” and “Coming Together but Staying Apart.”

Our Diverse Society Anyone studying sociology will quickly become aware of the enormous amount of social diversity. The United States with its extensive history of immigration has become one of the most diverse countries in the world. How has this diversity expressed itself in American society? In the “Our Diverse Society” boxes, we explore this question when we look at such topics as “Who Is at Most Risk for Suicide?” “Win Friends and Lose Your Future: The Costs of Not ‘Acting White’,” “Limiting Technology to Save the Community,” “How Much Are You Responsible for Your Own Success?” “How Easy Is It to Change Social Class?” “How Many Minorities Are There?” “Will English Continue to Be the Language of the United States?” “Why Do Women Live Longer Than Men?” “Who Is a Better Boss?” “Who Is God?” “Changing Religion Early and Often,” “Why Isn’t Life Expectancy in the United States Higher?” and “Stereotypes about the Elderly.”

Sociology in Strange Places These are discussions that provide unusual examples of sociological studies or daily events that can be understood more fully through the sociological lens. With these boxes, we explore “What Do People Do Online?” “Famous Research Studies You Cannot Do Today,” “Doing Research in a War Zone,” “Can Socialization Make a Boy into a Girl?” “Southerners Are Really Friendly until You Disrespect Them,” “Are You Really My Friend? Facebook and Intimate Communication,” “Are Peaceful Pot Smokers Being Sent to Prison?” “The Continuing Debate over Capital Punishment,” “Life Chances of an Adolescent Girl in Liberia,” “Hispanics: Racial Group? Ethnic Group? Neither?” “When Women Vote, Men Will Become Effeminate and Women Will Become Masculine,” “Reluctant to Marry: The Men Who Want to Stay Single,” “Worshipping with a Few Thousand of Your Friends,” “When Race, Money, and Education Collide,” “I Know It’s Not True, But I’m not Voting for Him Anyway,” “Do Men without Women Become Violent?” “The Discovery of a Disease,” and “Predicting the Future of Computers—1967.”

Global Sociology To highlight the cross-cultural nature of this book, many chapters include a “Global Sociology” box. These boxed features encourage students to think about sociological issues in a larger context and explore the global diversity present in the world. Included in these boxes are such topics as “Struggling to Accept the Jury System,” “Is There a Culture Clash between the United States and Saudi Arabia?” “To Succeed in

Japan, Give All the Credit to Your Boss,” “Cross-Cultural Social Interaction Quiz,” “A Bad Country in which to Be a Criminal,” “Rich Countries with Poor Children,” “How Countries Differ—Japan and Nigeria,” “HIV/AIDS, Worldwide Facts,” “Where Are the Baby Girls?” “In the Future, Minorities Will Be the New Majority,” “The Worst Offenders of Religious Freedom,” “Illiteracy Is Common throughout the World,” “Does Suicide Terrorism Make Sense?” “What if the Population Problem Is not Enough People?” “Women Live Longer than Men throughout the World,” “Global Aging Quiz,” and “Big Profits from Small Hands.”

Built-in Study Guide and Practice Tests

The study guide, by Jay Livingston of Montclair State University, is fully integrated into the book. The study guide is at the end of each chapter so students can review the material immediately, without having to search for it elsewhere in the book. This encourages students to see the study guide as an integral part of the learning process.

The study guide provides ample opportunity to review the material with a variety of styles of review questions. All key terms and key sociologists are reviewed with matching questions. Key concepts are revisited with fill-in questions. Critical Thought exercises help students contextualize concepts covered in the chapter. Often, Web site URLs are provided for students to expand on their exploration of the topic. An answer key is provided to allow students immediate review of their answers.

Practice tests are in the back of the book to provide students with additional preparation for testing. Whereas other practice tests are limited to recognition and recall items, these questions lead students to engage in such higher-level cognitive skills as analysis, application, and synthesis. The tests encourage students to think critically and apply the material to their experiences. Again, an answer key is provided to allow students full review and preparation.

All of these tools will be very useful for students preparing for essay exams and research papers. The textbook also includes the important section, “How to Get the Most out of Sociology,” which discusses how to use the study guide, practice tests, and lecture material in preparing for exams and getting the most out of the introductory sociology course.

● THE ANCILLARY PACKAGE

The primary objective of a textbook is to provide clear information in a format that promotes learning. To assist the instructor in using *Introduction to Sociology*, an extensive ancillary package has been developed to accompany the book.

Instructor's Resource Manual

Created by Debra Heath-Thornton of Messiah College, the instructor's resource manual streamlines and maximizes the effectiveness of your course preparation, using such resources as brief chapter outlines, learning objectives, key concepts and thinkers, detailed chapter outlines, lecture/discussion suggestions, suggestions for class activities, video suggestions, suggested resources, Internet exercises, InfoTrac[®] College Edition exercises, and other helpful resources for each of the chapters in *Introduction to Sociology*.

Test Bank

Also included is a test bank by Debra Heath-Thornton. Drawing from over a thousand of text-specific questions makes it easy to create tests that target your course objectives. The test bank includes 100 multiple-choice questions and twenty to thirty true/false questions for each chapter of the text, all with answer explanations and page references to the text. Also included are 10 to 15 short-answer and five to ten essay questions for each chapter.

PowerLecture with ExamView[®]

PowerLecture instructor resources are a collection of book-specific lecture and class tools on either CD or DVD. The fastest and easiest way to build powerful, customized media-rich lectures, PowerLecture assets include chapter-specific Microsoft[®] PowerPoint[®] presentations, images, animations and video, instructor manuals, test banks, useful Web links, and more. PowerLecture media-teaching tools are an effective way to enhance the educational experience. ExamView features automatic grading and allows you to create, deliver, and customize tests and study guides (both print and online) in minutes. See assessments onscreen exactly as they will print or display online. Build tests of up to 250 questions, using up to 12 question types and enter an unlimited number of new questions or edit existing questions.

WebTutor[™]

Jumpstart your course with customizable, rich, text-specific content within your Course Management System.

- **Jumpstart**—Simply load a WebTutor cartridge into your Course Management System.
- **Customizable**—Easily blend, add, edit, reorganize, or delete content.
- **Content**—Rich, text-specific content, media assets, quizzing, Web links, discussion topics, interactive games and exercises, and more.

Companion Web site

The book's companion site includes chapter-specific resources for instructors and students. For instructors, the site offers a password-protected instructor's manual, Microsoft PowerPoint presentation slides, and more. For students, there are a multitude of text-specific study aids: tutorial practice quizzes that can be scored and e-mailed to the instructor, Web links, InfoTrac College Edition exercises, flash cards, MicroCase[®] Online data exercises, crossword puzzles, Virtual Explorations, and much more!

ABC[®] Videos for Introductory Sociology

ABC Videos feature short, high-interest clips from current news events as well as historic raw footage going back 40 years. Perfect for discussion starters or to enrich your lectures and spark interest in the material in the text, these brief videos provide students with a new lens through which to view the past and present, one that will greatly enhance their knowledge and understanding of significant events and open up to them new dimensions in learning. Clips are drawn from such programs as *World News Tonight*, *Good Morning America*, *This Week*, *PrimeTime Live*, *20/20*, and *Nightline* as well as numerous ABC News specials and material from the Associated Press *Television News* and *British Movietone News* collections.

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About the Author

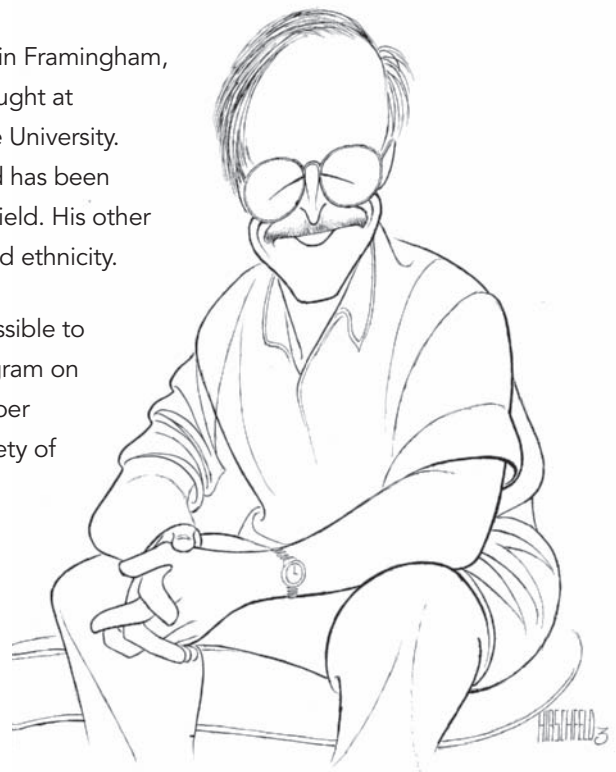
HENRY L. TISCHLER was born in Shanghai, China, and grew up in Philadelphia. He received his bachelor's degree from Temple University and his master's and doctorate degrees from Northeastern University. He pursued postdoctoral studies at Harvard University.

His first venture into textbook publishing took place while he was still a graduate student in sociology when he wrote the fourth edition of *Race and Ethnic Relations* with Brewton Berry. The success of that book led to his authorship of ten editions of *Introduction to Sociology*.

Tischler has been a professor at Framingham State College in Framingham, Massachusetts, for more than three decades. He has also taught at Northeastern University, Tufts University, and Montclair State University. He continues to teach introductory sociology every year and has been instrumental in encouraging many students to major in the field. His other areas of interest are crime and deviant behavior and race and ethnicity.

Professor Tischler has been active in making sociology accessible to the general population and hosted an author interview program on National Public Radio. He has also written a weekly newspaper column called "Society Today," which dealt with a wide variety of sociological topics.

Tischler divides his time between Boston and New York City with his wife Linda, a senior writer at a national magazine. The Tischlers are parents to Melissa, a business strategy consultant, and Ben, a film producer.



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● EFFECTIVE STUDY: AN INTRODUCTION

Why should you read this essay? If you think you have an A in your back pocket, perhaps you shouldn't. Maybe you are just not interested in sociology or about learning ways to become a really successful student. Maybe you're just here because an advisor told you that you need a social science course. Maybe you feel, "Hey, a C is good. I'll never need this stuff." If so, you can stop reading now.

If you would like to do well in sociology—thereby becoming a more effective participant in society and social life—and if you want to learn some techniques to help you in other classes, too, this is for you. It's filled with the little things no one ever seems to tell you can improve grades, make for better understanding of classes—and might even make classes enjoyable for you. The choice is yours: to read or not to read.

Be forewarned. These contents may challenge the habits of a lifetime—habits that have gotten you this far but ones that might endanger your future success.

This essay contains ways to help you locate major ideas in your textbook. It contains many techniques that will help you read your other course textbooks. If you learn these techniques early in your college career, you will have a head start on most other college students. You will be able to locate important information, understand lectures better, and probably do better on tests. By understanding the material better, you will not only gain a better understanding of sociology but also find that you are able to enjoy your class more.

● THE PROBLEM: PASSIVE READING

Do you believe reading is one-way communication? Do you expect the author's facts will become apparent if you only read hard enough or long enough? (Many students feel this way.) Do you believe the writer has buried critical material in the text somewhere and that you need only find and highlight it to get all that's important? And do you believe that if you can memorize these highlighted details you will do well on tests? If so, then you are probably a passive reader.

The problem with passive reading is that it makes even potentially interesting writing boring. Passive reading reduces a chapter to individual, frequently unrelated facts instead of providing understanding of important concepts. It seldom digs beneath the surface, relying on literal meaning rather than sensing implications. Because most college testing relies on understanding of

key concepts rather than on simple factual recall, passive reading fails to help students significantly to do well in courses.

Key Features of the Study Guide

For each chapter you will find the following:

Key concepts matching exercise

Includes every major term defined in the chapter
Promotes association of major thinkers with their key ideas or findings
Provides correct answers

Key thinkers/researchers matching exercise (where relevant)

Includes most important theorists or researchers discussed in the text
Promotes association of major thinkers with their key ideas or findings
Provides correct answers

Critical thinking questions

Promotes depth in reflecting on the material
Encourages creative application of the important concepts to everyday life
Is presented in increasing levels of complexity, abstraction, and difficulty
Provides help in preparing for essay exams and papers

Comprehensive practice test

Includes questions on all major points in the chapter
Includes true/false, multiple-choice, and essay questions
Provides correct answers

● THE SOLUTION: ACTIVE READING

Active reading is recognizing that a textbook should provide two-way communication. It involves knowing what aids are available to help understand the text and then using them to find the meaning. It involves prereading and questioning. It includes recording of questions, vocabulary learning, and summarizing. Still, with all these techniques, it frequently takes less time and produces significantly better results than passive reading.

This textbook—especially the study guide—is designed to help you become an active reader. For your convenience, the study guide material related to each chapter appears right after that chapter.

- [download online The Super-Rich: The Unjust New World of Global Capitalism](#)
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