Chapter 1 : Wellness: Seven Dimensions of Wellness

Social Life Essential Reads Understanding Social Life Human beings are social animals, and the tenor of our social life is one of the most important influences on our mental health.

The main focus of sociology is the group not the individual. The sociologist is mainly interested in the interaction between the people - the ways in which people act towards respond and influence each other. Sociology is characterized by its approach to phenomena the approach to science and by its subject matter human interaction. It is rightly defined as scientific study of human interaction. Sociology is about society, its constituent institutions, their inter relationship and the actors. Sociologists study the patterns in social interactions. According to Bogardus sociology has a long past but only a short history. The earliest attempts at systematic thought regarding social life in the west may be said to have begun with the ancient Greek philosophers Plato and his disciple Aristotle. In 16th century writers like Hobbes and Machiavelli provided more clear distinctions between state and society. Sir Thomas Moore who in his book Utopia published in tried to deal with every day social problems by means of depicting an ideal social order out what really meant for emulation. Italian writer Vico and French writer Montesquieu contributed towards the scientific investigation of social phenomenon. Vico in his book The New Science contended that society was subject to definite laws that can be observed through objective observation and study. Montesquieu in his famous book The Spirit of Laws had analyzed the role that external factors especially climate play in the life of human society. Sociology emerged in the context of the sweeping changes that the Industrial Revolution brought to Europe. Two other factors operating at the time also encouraged the development of sociology. The example of natural sciences if there methods could make so much sense of the physical world could they not be applied successfully to the social world. The second factor was the exposure of Europe to the radically different societies that their colonial empires had taken over. Information about the contrasting social practices of these societies raised fresh questions about society in general. Auguste Comte holds the title of Father of Sociology who established two specific problems for sociological investigation - social statics and social dynamics. Social statics refers to the problem of order and stability and social dynamics refers to the problem of social change. He believed that a science of sociology should be based on systematic observation and classification. Herbert Spencer applied the theory of organic evolution to human society and developed theory of social evolution. Karl Marx saw social conflict and inevitability of revolution as part of the society. Durkheim emphasized the basic needs of the society comparing it to a living organism. Max Weber stressed the regular patterns of action that can be discerned and result from particular beliefs. All these men were reacting to the crisis brought about in society by the flood of ideas upon which the revolutions were borne. Each searched for the dynamics that would explain the underlying causes of social change and in doing so they were also searching for the basis of social order. We have explained in details the various terms and concepts used in Sociology. Check out the alphatically listed terms of sociology for your reference. If there are any terms commonly used in Sociology and that have not been explained in out list of Sociology Terms, please write to us and we will add it to the list of terms of sociology for your benefit. After all it is the basic concepts of any subject that requires clarity and if your basic concepts of Sociology is not clear you are bound to remain unclear with many topics and underperform in your examination.

Chapter 2 : Social - Wikipedia

A Macro theory is a sociological theory designed to study the larger social, global, and societal level of sociological phenomena. This theory was founded by a German philosopher, economist, sociologist, and revolutionary ().

Health inequities are avoidable inequalities in health between groups of people within countries and between countries. These inequities arise from inequalities within and between societies. Examples of health inequities between countries: Examples of health inequities within countries: What is meant by social gradient? The poorest of the poor, around the world, have the worst health. There is a social gradient in health that runs from top to bottom of the socioeconomic spectrum. This is a global phenomenon, seen in low, middle and high income countries. The social gradient in health means that health inequities affect everyone. For example, if you look at under-5 mortality rates by levels of household wealth you see that within counties the relation between socioeconomic level and health is graded. The poorest have the highest under-5 mortality rates, and people in the second highest quintile of household wealth have higher mortality in their offspring than those in the highest quintile. This is the social gradient in health. The social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: What are the drivers of health inequities? The global context affects how societies prosper through its impact on international relations and domestic norms and policies. Where people are in the social hierarchy affects the conditions in which they grow, learn, live, work and age, their vulnerability to ill health and the consequences of ill health. The benefits of the economic growth that has taken place over the last 25 years are unequally distributed. By this ratio had increased to The result is that, in many cases, there is a net financial outflow from poorer to richer countries â€" an alarming state of affairs. The trend over the last 15 years has been for the poorest quintile of the population in many countries to have a declining share in national consumption. In Kenya, for example, at current economic growth rates and with the present levels of income inequality, the median family in poverty would not cross the poverty line until Gender biases in power, resources, entitlements, norms and values, and the way in which organizations are structured and programmes are run damage the health of millions of girls and women. The position of women in society is also associated with child health and survival â€" of boys and girls. Health equity depends vitally on the empowerment of individuals to challenge and change the unfair and steeply graded distribution of social resources to which everyone has equal claims and rights. Inequity in power interacts across four main dimensions â€" political, economic, social, and cultural â€" together constituting a continuum along which groups are, to varying degrees, excluded or included. What is primary health care? As stated at Alma Ata Conference: World Health Report What is health equity in all policies? Every aspect of government and the economy has the potential to affect health and health equity â€" finance, education, housing, employment, transport, and health, to name just six. While health may not be the main aim of policies in these sectors, they have strong bearing on health and health equity. For example, trade policy that actively encourages the production, trade, and consumption of foods high in fats and sugars to the detriment of fruit and vegetable production is contradictory to health policy Obesity is becoming a real public health challenge in transitioning countries, as it already is in high-income nations. Obesity prevention requires approaches that ensure a sustainable, adequate, and nutritious food supply; a habitat that lends itself to easy uptake of healthier food; participation in physical activity; and a family, educational, and work environment that positively reinforces healthy living. Very little of this action sits within the capabilities or responsibilities of the health sector. Positive advances have been made â€" for example, bans on advertisements for foods high in fats, sugars, and salt during television programmes aimed at children. However, a significant challenge remains:

Chapter 3 : Introduction To Sociology : 03 Social Theories

Social life definition is - the part of a person's time spent doing enjoyable things with others. How to use social life in a sentence. the part of a person's time spent doing enjoyable things with others.

As women do not have cultural power, there is no version of hegemonic femininity to rival hegemonic masculinity. There are, however, dominant ideals of doing femininity, which favour White, heterosexual, middle-class cis-women who are able-bodied. Minority women do not enjoy the same social privileges in comparison. Women who want to challenge this masculine logic, even by asking for a pay rise, are impeded from reaching their potential. Indigenous and other women of colour are even more disadvantaged. Cultural variations of gender across time and place also demonstrate that gender change is possible. Transgender and Intersex Australians Nationally representative figures drawing on random samples do not exist for transgender people in Australia. The researchers think that transgender and intersex Australians either nominated themselves broadly as woman or men, and as either heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual or asexual. Alternatively, transgender and intersex Australians may have declined to participate in the survey. American and British estimates are no more exact. Smaller or specialised surveys on issues such as surveillance and tobacco estimate that between 0. Employers discriminate in tacit ways, which might manifest as gender bias leading managers to question how gender transition may impact on work productivity. Feminism has yet to fully embrace transgender inclusion as a feminist cause. Transgender people have always lived in Australia. Read below to learn more about sistergirls, Aboriginal transgender women, and how Christianity attempted to displace their cultural belonging and femininity. Girls with an enlarged clitoris and boys with a micro-penis are judged by doctors to have an ambiguous sex and might be operated on early in life. Others do not experience such trauma, and they feel more supported especially when parents and families are more open to discussing intersexuality rather than hiding the condition. Much like transgender people, intersex people have also been largely ignored by mainstream feminism, which only amplifies their experience of gender inequality. Still, the notion of difference, of otherness, is central to the social organisation of gender. As Judith Lorber and Susan Farrell argue: The shoes were impractical and difficult to walk in, but they were both a status symbol as well as a sign of masculinity and power. In Western cultures, women did not begin wearing high-heeled shoes until the midth Century. Their introduction was not about social status or power, but rather it was a symptom of the increasing sexualisation of women with the introduction of cameras. The Wodaabe nomads from Niger are a case in point. Wodaabe Niger Wodaabe men will dress up during a special ceremony in order to attract a wife. They wear make-up to show off their features; they wear their best outfits, adorned with jewellery; and they bare their teeth and dance before the single women in their village. To the Western eye, these men may appear feminine, as Western culture associates make up and ornamental body routines with women. This is another custom that is contrary to dominant models of gender in the West, which demand that women be more passive, and wait until a man approaches her for romantic or sexual attention. They are traditionally considered to be sacred beings embodying both the feminine and masculine traits of all their ancestors and nature. They are chosen by their community to represent this tradition, and once this happens, they live out their lives in the opposite gender, and can also get married to someone of the opposite gender to their adopted gender. These couples have sex together and they may also have sex with other partners of the opposite gender. If they have children, they are accepted into the Two Spirit household without social stigma. The women do not have sexual relations, it is more of a family and economic arrangement. Human rights activists challenge this saying that because homosexuality is shrouded in secrecy, these women may not want to admit to sexual relationships; however, there is no empirical evidence to this effect. It is permissible when an older woman has not borne a son, and she will marry a woman to bear her a male heir. The Lovedu of South Africa and the Igbo of Benin and Nigeria also practice a variation of female husband, where an independently wealthy woman will continue to be a wife to her male husband, but she will set up a separate home for her wife, who will bear her children. The children of her wife remain her responsibility and they are not shunned. The female-husband tradition preserves patriarchal structure; without an heir, women cannot

inherit land or property from their family, but if her wife bears a son, the female wife is allowed to carry on the family name and pass on inheritance to her sons. Kathoey Ladyboys â€" Documentary from faithjuliana on Vimeo. Kathoey women have become a large tourism attraction which stands at odd with their own legal struggles as well as those of other LGBTQIA people in Thailand. She has a Masters degree and is a successful business woman.

Chapter 4 : THE GAME THEORY : SCIENCE OF SOCIAL LIFE - CUTTING EDGE VISIONARIES

In contemporary social theory, certain core themes take precedence over others, themes such as the nature of social life, the relationship between self and society, the structure of social institutions, the role and possibility of social transformation, as well as themes such as gender, race and class (Elliot).

New Scientific Concepts To Improve Your Thinking ," a compilation of nearly essays exploring concepts such as the "shifting baseline syndrome" and a scientific view of "randomness. Cognitive humility Decades of cognitive research shows that "our minds are finite and far from noble. Knowing their limits can help us become better reasoners. In fact, "much creativity emerges from constraint satisfaction. Einstein had one of his major breakthroughs when he realized that time need not pass at a constant rate. But a new concept, "contingent superorganisms," says that we live life on a few different hierarchies. This is what drives militaries, fire departments, and rock bands. But just because we are drawn to specific concepts, does not mean that they are the best ones to apply to any given situation. The effect of the spread of misinformation is "cumulative error. Cycles Cycles explain everything â€" especially, at the basic level: Cycles can be disrupted. Also watch out to see which cycles are doing all the work. This creates a more expansive view of the world and the potential of the universe. Understanding the need for double-blind experiments would help the rest of the population understand their inherent subjective, everyday biases, and guard against generalization and impress upon people the need for critical thinking. Richard Dawkins, evolutionary zoologist, University of Oxford. The idea is to determine what you can actually measure and decide, given the precision and accuracy of your measuring tools, and to find a theory appropriate to those measurable quantities. For example, there are more intermarriages. Externalities We all affect each other incidentally, especially in an interconnected world. Externalities are the unintended positive and negative side effects these interactions have. Failure liberates success "Failure is not something to be avoided but something to be cultivated. It is a sign of weakness and often a stigma that prohibits second chances. Yet the rise in the West is in many respects due to the rise in tolerating failure. Indeed, many immigrants trained in a failure-intolerant culture may blossom out of stagnancy once moved into a failure-tolerant culture. Fear of the unknown Goldman Sachs Asset Management Our attachment to the familiar keeps us from taking risks and making real strides and breakthroughs. But what we believe to be instinct may, in fact, be learned behavior over time â€" or a "fixed-action pattern. But the truth is, factors like income and health are less indicative of overall happiness. Hidden layers These are the layers of understanding that exist between the external reality and our own perception of the world. These systems of layers become more interconnected as we develop habits. Perhaps the most impressive is that carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus, iron, and a few other elements, mixed in just the right way, yield life. There is a kind of awesome synergy between the parts. It is an appreciation not of the simple but of the complex. Inference to the best explanation When any single event occurs, there are many possibilities as to the cause of the event. A Work Of Fiction. Kaleidoscopic discovery engine The greatest insights and inventions are the product of multiple people. We are reluctant to believe that great discoveries are part of a discovery kaleidoscope and are mirrored in numerous individuals at once. From Pythagoras to the 57th Dimension. Name game We give names to everything in order to understand the world. But in doing this, we sometimes undermine, or simplify, the true nature of an organism or process. Adventures in the Margin of Error. In positive-sum games, "everyone wins. Language as a Window into Human Nature. Powers of 10 Much of the world operates in powers of Our space-time trajectory is a very tiny part of the universe, but we can at least attach powers of 10 to it and put it into perspective. Predictive coding Our expectations â€" and if they are met or not â€" greatly influence how we perceive the world, and ultimately, our quality of life. Predictive coding "concerns the way the brain exploits prediction and anticipation in making sense of incoming signals and using them to guide perception, thought and action. The Dark Arts of Mathematical Deception. Self-serving bias The idea that we perceive ourselves to be better than we are; to claim responsibility for success and blame others for failure. In surveys of college faculty, 90 percent or more have rated themselves as superior to their average colleague. The syndrome is named after scientist Daniel

Pauly, who said that each generation accepts "as a baseline the stock size and species composition that occurred at the beginning of their careers, and uses this to evaluate changes. When the next generation starts its career, the stocks have further declined, but it is the stocks at that time that serve as the new baseline. Skeptical empiricism "Skeptical empiricism, the kind exemplified by the carefully thought-out and tested research in science at its best. It differs from plain empiricism" â€" which is simply the observation of results of the world around us. Put more simply, it is important for us to be skeptical about the world around us and not blindly accept what we believe to be "truths. Structured serendipity We overly-attribute breakthroughs to luck. Subselves and the modular mind The belief that we have a single self is false. Kenrick, social psychology professor, Arizona State University. It neatly captures that idea of limited knowledge, of unobtainable information, of unimagined possibilities. Uncalculated risk "We humans are terrible at dealing with probability. Our irrational fears and inclinations are costly.

Aldridge, S (, March 30) Life Chances and Social Mobility- An overview of the evidence retrieved February 25, from calendrierdelascience.com Acheson, D. (). Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health Report.

Etymology[edit] The word "Social" derives from the Latin word socii "allies". Definition[edit] In the absence of agreement about its meaning, the term "social" is used in many different senses and regarded as a concept , referring among other things to: Attitudes , orientations, or behaviors which take the interests, intentions, or needs of other people into account in contrast to anti-social behaviour has played some role in defining the idea or the principle. For instance terms like social realism , social justice , social constructivism , social psychology , social anarchism and social capital imply that there is some social process involved or considered, a process that is not there in regular, "non-social" realism, justice, constructivism, psychology, anarchism, or capital. The adjective "social" is also used often in politics , although its meaning in a context depends heavily on who is using it. In left-wing circles it is often used to imply a liberal characteristic, while in right-wing circles it is generally used to imply a conservative characteristic. This adjective is used much more often by those on the political left than by those on the political right. For these reasons, those seeking to avoid association with the left-right political debates often seek to label their work with phrases that do not include the word "social". An example is quasi-empiricism in mathematics which is sometimes labelled social constructivism by those who see it as an unwarranted intrusion of social considerations in mathematical practice. Social theorists[edit] In the view of Karl Marx [1] , human beings are intrinsically, necessarily and by definition social beings who, beyond being "gregarious creatures", cannot survive and meet their needs other than through social co-operation and association. Their social characteristics are therefore to a large extent an objectively given fact, stamped on them from birth and affirmed by socialization processes; and, according to Marx, in producing and reproducing their material life, people must necessarily enter into relations of production which are "independent of their will". By contrast, the sociologist Max Weber [1] for example defines human action as "social" if, by virtue of the subjective meanings attached to the action by individuals, it "takes account of the behavior of others, and is thereby oriented in its course". In socialism[edit] The term " socialism ", used from the s onwards in France and the United Kingdom , was directly related to what was called the social question. In essence, early socialists contended that the emergence of competitive market societies did not create "liberty, equality and fraternity" for all citizens, requiring the intervention of politics and social reform to tackle social problems, injustices and grievances a topic on which Jean-Jacques Rousseau discourses at length in his classic work The Social Contract. Originally the term "socialist" was often used interchangeably with " co-operative ", " mutualist ", " associationist " and " collectivist " in reference to the organization of economic enterprise socialists advocated, in contrast to the private enterprise and corporate organizational structures inherent to capitalism. The modern concept of socialism evolved in response to the development of industrial capitalism. The "social" in modern "socialism" came to refer to the specific perspective and understanding socialists had of the development of material, economic forces and determinants of human behavior in society. Social and economic systems were thus not the product of innate human nature, but of the underlying form of economic organization and level of technology in a given society, implying that human social relations and incentive-structures would also change as social relations and social organization changes in response to improvements in technology and evolving material forces relations of production. Modern uses[edit] In contemporary society, "social" often refers to the redistributive policies of the government which aim to apply resources in the public interest , for example, [social security]. Policy concerns then include the problems of social exclusion and social cohesion. Here, "social" contrasts with " private " and to the distinction between the public and the private or privatised spheres, where ownership relations define access to resources and attention. The social domain is often also contrasted with that of physical nature, but in sociobiology analogies are drawn between humans and other living species in order to explain social behavior in terms of biological factors. The term "social" is also added in various other academic sub-disciplines such as social geography , social psychology , social anthropology , social

philosophy , social ontology , social statistics and social choice theory in mathematics.

Chapter 6 : Cultural Capital | Social Theory Rewired

When it comes to running a business effectively, a number of buzzwords are often used: zero-waste, efficiency, sustainability, and diversity. The problem is how they become relevant for your business.

If I go with definition it goes like this: Game theory is the study of mathematical models of strategic interaction between rational decision-makers. It has applications in social science, logic making, computer science, etc. Wikipedia Formulated by a mathematician named John Nash. There is also one movie on him: America deployed ballistic missile in Italy and Turkey. In concern to that Soviet Union leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed with Fidel Castro to deployed their nuclear missile in Cuban Island, very close to America, to neutralize future invasion by America. The diplomats between the United States and the Soviet Union pointed out the necessity of a quick, clear, and a direct communication line between Washington and Moscow. Finally, an agreement was reached between US president John F. Soviets agreed to dismantle weapons subject to the US avoid invading Cuba again and dismantle all US-built missiles deployed in Turkey and Italy. U might have got glimpses of how extreme diplomatic issues can also be solved by the aid of simple payoff matrix. Probably all of you must have noticed that shops selling same products cluster together, like all in series electrical people, cheers! If they have spread throughout the community they would have faced much less competition, but they also lose something. There are many advantages of Clustering. Very first is they are likely to learn from each other, to keep the competition tough there would be a mutual growth of all parties involved. Despite a slight increase in competition, efforts of all the partners are pooled unknowingly to add more new customers as service quality increases. Shops are more vulnerable to failure if located far from competitors. This is how business flourishes. You can also refer this: Have you noticed that most of the time small political parties form a coalition with a group of other small parties, not with a big party? There are four parties namely A, B, C, and D. If you are A then it would be quite easy for you to select any one, but if you are either B, C or D then what would you do. In the first case, suppose you are B, and in second case you are C or D. Following is payoff matrix of representation of your party in assembly formed: So you can clearly see if B goes with A then majority power will be in hand of leaders of A, whereas power coalition with smaller parties led to a distribution of power as well as the percentage of B also increases. Though being the biggest party in Karnataka, BJP was not able to form a coalition. So we can conclude that any social interaction of ourselves with others are of two types: When you are competing and have no mutual trust with others it would be better if you take such decisions which benefits you irrespective of what others decide to do. Whereas in a cooperative environment where everyone shares a common goal, there must be a fair division of profit, means the party who contribute more should receive more, this should be taken care. So you just have instilled in you one more dimension to your vision, this would surely help to tackle many problems in future rationally and come up with SOS. Below is the original presentation file of the talk in pdf format. A huge thanks for your time and patience!

The modern concept of socialism evolved in response to the development of industrial capitalism. The "social" in modern "socialism" came to refer to the specific perspective and understanding socialists had of the development of material, economic forces and determinants of human behavior in society.

Midcourse Review Data Are In! Check out our interactive infographic to see progress toward the Health Related Quality of Life Well Being objectives and other Healthy People topic areas. Goal Improve health-related quality of life and well-being for all individuals. Overview Health-related quality of life HRQOL is a multi-dimensional concept that includes domains related to physical, mental, emotional, and social functioning. It goes beyond direct measures of population health, life expectancy, and causes of death, and focuses on the impact health status has on quality of life. Well-being is a relative state where one maximizes his or her physical, mental, and social functioning in the context of supportive environments to live a full, satisfying, and productive life. Researchers today agree that HRQOL is multidimensional and includes domains that are related to physical, mental, emotional, and social functioning and the social context in which people live. Measures of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy HLE were used to report on this goal for several populations, which relied on self-reported data related to health, including global health status, prevalence of certain chronic diseases, and activity limitations. For Healthy People , quality of life is integral to each of the 4 overarching goals. Over the decade, Healthy People is approaching the measurement of health-related quality of life and well-being from a multidisciplinary perspective that encompasses 3 complementary and related domains: Self-rated physical and mental health Overall well-being Participation in society Although none of these domains alone can fully represent the concept of health-related quality of life or well-being, when viewed together they will provide a more complete representation to support monitoring of the health-related quality of life and well-being of the U. All items were tested in large and diverse samples. Individual items include fatigue, pain, emotional distress, and social activities. Back to Top Well-Being People with higher levels of well-being judge their life as going well. People are satisfied, interested, and engaged with their lives. People experience a sense of accomplishment from their activities and judge their lives to be meaningful. People are more often content or cheerful than depressed or anxious. People get along with others and experience good social relationships. Personal factors, social circumstances, and community environments influence well-being. Physical well-being relates to vigor and vitality, feeling very healthy and full of energy. Social well-being involves providing and receiving quality support from family, friends, and others. Healthy People is exploring measurement of these concepts at this time. Underlying this participation measure is the principle that a person with a functional limitation â€" for example, vision loss, mobility difficulty, or intellectual disability â€" can live a long and productive life and enjoy a good quality of life. Participation in society includes education, employment, and civic, social, and leisure activities, as well as family role participation. An evaluation of well-being scales for public health and population estimates of well-being among U. Health and Well Being. Healthy People Framework. WHO Definition of Health. Soc Sci Med ; 41 Definitions and conceptual models of quality of life. Outcomes assessment in cancer. Medical Care ; Journal of Clinical Epidemiology ; Monitoring Population Health for Healthy People Quality of Life Research ; Evaluation of item candidates: Psychometric evaluation and calibration of health-related quality of life item banks. Well-Being for Public Policy. Oxford University Press, Inc. Soc Sci Med ; The dilemma of measuring perceived health status in the context of disability. Disability and Health Journal ; 2: A population health framework for setting national and state health goals. JAMA ; Arch Phys Med Rehabil ;

Chapter 8 : WHO | Key concepts

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION: the arrangement of the parts that constitute society, the organization of social positions and distribution of people within those positions. STATUS: socially defined niches, positions (student, professor, administrator).

By the time of European settlement in , Aboriginal peoples had occupied and utilized the entire continent and adapted successfully to a large range of ecological and climatic conditions, from wet temperate and tropical rainforests to extremely arid deserts. Population densities ranged fromâ€¦ Although it is generally agreed that the term social structure refers to regularities in social life, its application is inconsistent. For example, the term is sometimes wrongly applied when other concepts such as custom, tradition, role , or norm would be more accurate. Studies of social structure attempt to explain such matters as integration and trends in inequality. In the study of these phenomena, sociologists analyze organizations, social categories such as age groups , or rates such as of crime or birth. This approach, sometimes called formal sociology, does not refer directly to individual behaviour or interpersonal interaction. Therefore, the study of social structure is not considered a behavioral science; at this level, the analysis is too abstract. It is a step removed from the consideration of concrete human behaviour , even though the phenomena studied in social structure result from humans responding to each other and to their environments. Those who study social structure do, however, follow an empirical observational approach to research, methodology , and epistemology. Social structure is sometimes defined simply as patterned social relationsâ€"those regular and repetitive aspects of the interactions between the members of a given social entity. Even on this descriptive level, the concept is highly abstract: The larger the social entity considered, the more abstract the concept tends to be. For this reason, the social structure of a small group is generally more closely related to the daily activities of its individual members than is the social structure of a larger society. In the study of larger social groups, the problem of selection is acute: Various theories offer different solutions to this problem of determining the primary characteristics of a social group. Before these different theoretical views can be discussed, however, some remarks must be made on the general aspects of the social structure of any society. Social life is structured along the dimensions of time and space. Specific social activities take place at specific times, and time is divided into periods that are connected with the rhythms of social lifeâ€"the routines of the day, the month, and the year. Specific social activities are also organized at specific places; particular places, for instance, are designated for such activities as working, worshiping, eating, and sleeping. Territorial boundaries delineate these places and are defined by rules of property that determine the use and possession of scarce goods. Additionally, in any society there is a more or less regular division of labour. Yet another universal structural characteristic of human societies is the regulation of violence. All violence is a potentially disruptive force; at the same time, it is a means of coercion and coordination of activities. Human beings have formed political units, such as nations, within which the use of violence is strictly regulated and which, at the same time, are organized for the use of violence against outside groups. Furthermore, in any society there are arrangements within the structure for sexual reproduction and the care and education of the young. These arrangements take the form partly of kinship and marriage relations. Finally, systems of symbolic communication , particularly language, structure the interactions between the members of any society. Page 1 of 4.

Chapter 9 : Sociology of Gender â€" The Other Sociologist

Basic Concepts & Terms of Sociology. The basic premise of sociology is that human behavior is largely shaped by the groups to which people belong and by the social interaction that takes place within those groups.

Goffman believed that when we are born, we are thrust onto a stage called everyday life, and that our socialization consists of learning how to play our assigned roles from other people. We enact our roles in the company of others, who are in turn enacting their roles in interaction with us. He believed that whatever we do, we are playing out some role on the stage of life. Goffman distinguished between front stages and back stages. During our everyday life, we spend most of our lives on the front stage, where we get to deliver our lines and perform. A wedding is a front stage. A classroom lectern is a front stage. A dinner table can be a front stage. Almost any place where we act in front of others is a front stage. Sometimes we are allowed to retreat to the back stages of life. We can be our real selves. We can also practice and prepare for our return to the front stage. According to Goffman, we use various mechanisms, called sign vehicles, to present ourselves to others. The most commonly employed sign vehicles are the following: Social setting Manner of interacting Social Setting The social setting is the physical place where interaction occurs. How we arrange our spaces, and what we put in them, conveys a lot of information about us. A person who lives in a huge home with security guards, attack dogs, and motion detectors conveys the message that he or she is very important, wealthy, and powerful, and probably that uninvited visitors should stay away. On the other hand, the owner of a house with no fence, lots of lights, and a welcome mat would seem much more inviting but perhaps not as rich or powerful. How we decorate our settings, or what props we use, also gives clues to how we want people to think of us. A businesswoman with a photo of her family on her desk communicates that things outside of work are important in her life. When a professor displays her degrees and certificates on the wall of her office, she communicates that she wants to be viewed as a credible authority in her chosen field. When people decorate offices, hang pictures in clinics, or display artwork in their homes, they are using props to convey information about how they want others to see them.