

Chapter 1 : Anthropology - Wikipedia

Sociology is defined as the scientific study of human society and human interaction. Sociologists are interested in many different aspects of society such as culture, socialization, criminology, social inequality, social groups, organizations, social change, and social institutions (and the list could go on and on).

Prior to the emergence of sociology the study of society was carried on in an unscientific manner and society had never been the central concern of any science. It is through the study of sociology that the truly scientific study of the society has been possible. Sociology alone studies social relationships, society itself. Sociology is interested in social relationships not because they are economic or political or religious or legal but because they are at the same time social. Sociology study how the relations combine, how they build up smaller or greater systems and how they respond to changes and changing needs or demands. Therefore the study of sociology is essentially analytical. Sociology because of its bearing upon many of the problems of the present world has assumed such a great importance that it is considered to be the best approach to all the social sciences. Sociology has made it possible to study society in a scientific manner. This scientific knowledge about human society is needed in order to achieve progress in various fields. Sociology throws more light on the social nature of man Sociology delves deep into the social nature of man. It tells us why man is a social animal, why he lives in a group, communities and societies. It examines the relationship between individual and society, the impact of society on man and other matters. Sociology increases the power of social action The science of society assists an individual to understand himself, his capacities, talents and limitations. It enables him to adjust himself to the environment. Knowledge of society, social groups, social institutions, associations, their functions etc. Sociology studies role of the institutions in the development of the individuals It is through sociology that scientific study of the great social institutions and the relation of the individual to each is being made. The home and family, the school and education, the church and religion, the state and government, industry and work, the community and association, these are institutions through which society functions. Sociology studies these institutions and their role in the development of the individual and suggests suitable measures for strengthening them with a view to enable them to serve the individual better. Study of sociology is indispensable for understanding and planning of society Society is a complex phenomenon with a multitude of intricacies. It is impossible to understand and solve its numerous problems without support of sociology. It is rightly said that we cannot understand and mend society without any knowledge of its mechanism and construction. Without the investigation carried out by sociology no real effective social planning would be possible. It helps us to determine the most efficient means for reaching the goals agreed upon. A certain amount of knowledge about society is necessary before any social policies can be carried out. Sociology is of great importance in the solution of social problems The present world is suffering from many problems that can be solved through scientific study of the society. It is the task of sociology to study the social problems through the methods of scientific research and to find out solution to them. The scientific study of human affairs will ultimately provide the body of knowledge and principles that will enable us to control the conditions of social life and improve them. Sociology has drawn our attention to the intrinsic worth and dignity of man Sociology has been instrumental in changing our attitude towards human beings. In a specialized society we are all limited as to the amount of the whole organization and culture that we can experience directly. We can hardly know the people of other areas intimately. In order to have insight into and appreciation of the motives by which others live and the conditions under which they exist knowledge of sociology is essential. Sociology has changed our outlook with regard to the problems of crime It is through the study of sociology that our whole outlook on various aspects of crime has change. The criminals are now treated as human beings suffering from mental deficiencies and efforts are accordingly made to rehabilitate them as useful members of the society. Sociology has made great contribution to enrich human culture Human culture has been made richer by the contribution of sociology. The social phenomenon is now understood in the light of scientific knowledge and enquiry. According to Lowie most of us harbor the comfortable delusion that our way of doing things is the only sensible if not only possible one. It has further taught us to be

objective, critical and dispassionate. It enables man to have better understanding both of himself and of others. By comparative study of societies and groups other than his existence, his life becomes richer and fuller than it would otherwise be. Sociology also impresses upon us the necessity of overcoming narrow personal prejudices, ambitions and class hatred. Sociology is of great importance in the solution of international problems. The progress made by physical sciences has brought the nations of the world nearer to each other. But in the social field the world has been left behind by the revolutionary progress of the science. The world is divided politically giving rise to stress and conflict. Men have failed to bring in peace. Sociology can help us in understanding the underlying causes and tensions. The value of sociology lies in the fact that it keeps us update on modern situations. It contributes to making good citizens and finding solutions to the community problems. It adds to the knowledge of the society. It helps the individual find his relation to society. The study of social phenomena and of the ways and means of promoting what Giddens calls social adequacy is one of the most urgent needs of the modern society. Sociology has a strong appeal to all types of mind through its direct bearing upon many of the initial problems of the present world. Study of society has helped governments to promote the welfare of the tribal and marginalized communities. The tribal and marginalized communities face many socio-economic and cultural problems. Studies conducted by sociologists and anthropologists regarding tribal societies and problems have helped governments in undertaking social welfare measures and programmes for the welfare purposes. Sociology is useful as a teaching subject. Sociology is a profession in which technical competence brings its own rewards. Sociologists those trained in research procedures are contributing in business, government, industry, social sector, communications and many other areas of community life. Sociology has now become practical enough to be practiced in the other fields prominently in local, state, national and international levels.

Chapter 2 : What is Sociology? | American Sociological Association

The disciplines that study human social behavior or institutions and functions of human society in a scientific manner. Social Interaction How people relate to one another and influence each others behavior.

Scientific evidence shows that the physical and behavioral traits shared by all people originated from apelike ancestors and evolved over a period of approximately six million years. One of the earliest defining human traits, bipedalism -- the ability to walk on two legs -- evolved over 4 million years ago. Other important human characteristics -- such as a large and complex brain, the ability to make and use tools, and the capacity for language -- developed more recently. Many advanced traits -- including complex symbolic expression, art, and elaborate cultural diversity -- emerged mainly during the past , years. Physical and genetic similarities show that the modern human species , Homo sapiens, has a very close relationship to another group of primate species, the apes. Humans first evolved in Africa, and much of human evolution occurred on that continent. The fossils of early humans who lived between 6 and 2 million years ago come entirely from Africa. Most scientists currently recognize some 15 to 20 different species of early humans. Scientists do not all agree, however, about how these species are related or which ones simply died out. Many early human species -- certainly the majority of them -- left no living descendants. Scientists also debate over how to identify and classify particular species of early humans, and about what factors influenced the evolution and extinction of each species. Early humans first migrated out of Africa into Asia probably between 2 million and 1. They entered Europe somewhat later, between 1. Species of modern humans populated many parts of the world much later. For instance, people first came to Australia probably within the past 60, years and to the Americas within the past 30, years or so. The beginnings of agriculture and the rise of the first civilizations occurred within the past 12, years. **Paleoanthropology** Paleoanthropology is the scientific study of human evolution. Paleanthropology is a subfield of anthropology, the study of human culture, society, and biology. The field involves an understanding of the similarities and differences between humans and other species in their genes, body form, physiology, and behavior. Paleanthropologists search for the roots of human physical traits and behavior. They seek to discover how evolution has shaped the potentials, tendencies, and limitations of all people. For many people, paleoanthropology is an exciting scientific field because it investigates the origin, over millions of years, of the universal and defining traits of our species. However, some people find the concept of human evolution troubling because it can seem not to fit with religious and other traditional beliefs about how people, other living things, and the world came to be. Nevertheless, many people have come to reconcile their beliefs with the scientific evidence. Early human fossils and archeological remains offer the most important clues about this ancient past. These remains include bones, tools and any other evidence such as footprints, evidence of hearths, or butchery marks on animal bones left by earlier people. Usually, the remains were buried and preserved naturally. They are then found either on the surface exposed by rain, rivers, and wind erosion or by digging in the ground. By studying fossilized bones, scientists learn about the physical appearance of earlier humans and how it changed. Bone size, shape, and markings left by muscles tell us how those predecessors moved around, held tools, and how the size of their brains changed over a long time. Archeological evidence refers to the things earlier people made and the places where scientists find them. By studying this type of evidence, archeologists can understand how early humans made and used tools and lived in their environments. **The process of evolution** The process of evolution involves a series of natural changes that cause species populations of different organisms to arise, adapt to the environment, and become extinct. All species or organisms have originated through the process of biological evolution. In animals that reproduce sexually, including humans, the term species refers to a group whose adult members regularly interbreed, resulting in fertile offspring -- that is, offspring themselves capable of reproducing. Scientists classify each species with a unique, two-part scientific name. In this system, modern humans are classified as Homo sapiens. Evolution occurs when there is change in the genetic material -- the chemical molecule, DNA -- which is inherited from the parents, and especially in the proportions of different genes in a population. Genes represent the segments of DNA that provide the chemical code for producing proteins. Information

contained in the DNA can change by a process known as mutation. The way particular genes are expressed -- that is, how they influence the body or behavior of an organism -- can also change. Evolution does not change any single individual. Instead, it changes the inherited means of growth and development that typify a population a group of individuals of the same species living in a particular habitat. Parents pass adaptive genetic changes to their offspring, and ultimately these changes become common throughout a population. As a result, the offspring inherit those genetic characteristics that enhance their chances of survival and ability to give birth, which may work well until the environment changes. Human evolution took place as new genetic variations in early ancestor populations favored new abilities to adapt to environmental change and so altered the human way of life. Rick Potts provides a video short introduction to some of the evidence for human evolution , in the form of fossils and artifacts.

Chapter 3 : What is Sociology?

The American Sociological Association () characterizes "sociology as the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.

Part 1 What is Sociology? Sociology is defined as the scientific study of human society and human interaction. In order for you to understand more about human society, you should first become acquainted with the discipline of sociology. This includes such disciplines as: Each discipline has a unique focus on certain aspects of human behavior. What makes sociology unique is its focus on patterns of behavior in society. Rather than looking at the individual human psyche or the economic or political system, we focus on how humans create these structures in society in the first place. We also focus on the patterns of behaviors that occur within these structures. Some of the work of sociology overlaps with many of these disciplines and we make use of theories and research from all of these disciplines. The Sociological Perspective Many students assume that they already know a lot about society. We make casual observations about our social environments quite often and notice patterns of behavior from certain groups of people. However, our observations are not always correct. In fact, many students who take a sociology course for the first time are surprised at the number of myths they had learned about society. Our personal observations are not always as accurate as we might have once thought them to be. Just from watching the news on television, for instance, one might assume that crime in the United States is going up worse today than it has ever been. However, a more careful examination reveals a somewhat different picture. Table 1 and 2: Crime Rates in United States Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics: We have had values and beliefs passed down to us from our parents and other sources such as religion, education, peers and television. These experiences actually keep us from seeing and understanding society because they have clouded our view. For instance, our society stresses the importance of individual achievement. We often assume that everyone born in the United States has the same opportunities or chances to succeed. But the truth is we all have different experiences. We experience education differently, live in different neighborhoods, believe in different religions, and have different economic opportunities available to us at various stages throughout our lives. How could it be then, that we all have the same chance to succeed? Where did this idea come from in the first place and how is it continually impressed upon us reinforced? Perhaps we hear the rags to riches story on television time and again. Yet, if this were the case, then why are there so few members of the upper class? Why are we all not in the same income bracket? This is just one question that sociology tries to answer. What I am trying to show is that our experiences in society often keep us from understanding society. With this in mind, we must use the tools of sociology to measure patterns of behavior in society. These Patterns usually reveal that there is an underlying social force at work. What social events were taking place at this time in American history that might have influenced these changes? Divorce Rate in United States There are always exceptions to every pattern of behavior and students are always eager to point them out. The rags to riches stories are certainly exceptions when it comes to looking at patterns of social mobility. Most of the wealth in our society is inherited but we often think of pioneers such as Bill Gates who moved outside of his middle class background to become the richest man in the world. Instead, we must look at the patterns and gather evidence and observations of how and why these events occurred. There are many ways of doing this and we will cover research methods more in-depth later in this unit. Sociology and Abstract Concepts Sociologists use abstract concepts to help us understand more objectively how society works. Social structures are patterns of behavior that are repeated over and over until they become an established part of society. They are created through our repeated interactions with one another and we often take them for granted. Are there certain patterns of behavior that signal to us what socioeconomic background he or she belongs to? It is very unlikely that someone will tell you what class they are from when you meet them, so how do you know? Without a doubt, social class has an impact on how we as individuals encounter the world. It influences the way we interact with one another, what church we go to, what school we attend and what neighborhood we live in. Thus, social class, as well as other social structures, guides our behaviors and interactions. It also makes life more predictable, which and predictability is something we humans need in

order to have a stable, functioning society. Sociologists are also interested in how social structures help to create stability in society. The social institutions we are most interested are: These institutions are highly patterned to meet our needs and without them, society itself would be unstable. Wright Mills, the sociological imagination allows us to see how society affects us. As mentioned earlier, this is not an easy task. One good way to do this is through comparative analysis. When we look at the differences between socialization in the United States and Japan, for instance, we are able to uncover patterns that are unique to each culture. Socialization is a social force that has affected all of our lives and as you will see in Unit 2, it has a profound impact on how we act and react towards others.

Chapter 4 : The scientific study of human society. (Book,) [calendrierdelascience.com]

the science of associates, the scientific study of human society sociology concerned with the description and explanation of the pattern of human behavior especially as it occurs within the social context.

Various short-lived organizations of anthropologists had already been formed. Its members were primarily anti-slavery activists. They maintained international connections. Anthropology and many other current fields are the intellectual results of the comparative methods developed in the earlier 19th century. Theorists in such diverse fields as anatomy , linguistics , and Ethnology , making feature-by-feature comparisons of their subject matters, were beginning to suspect that similarities between animals, languages, and folkways were the result of processes or laws unknown to them then. Darwin himself arrived at his conclusions through comparison of species he had seen in agronomy and in the wild. Darwin and Wallace unveiled evolution in the late s. There was an immediate rush to bring it into the social sciences. He wanted to localize the difference between man and the other animals, which appeared to reside in speech. The title was soon translated as "The Anthropology of Primitive Peoples". The last two volumes were published posthumously. Waitz defined anthropology as "the science of the nature of man". By nature he meant matter animated by "the Divine breath"; [13] i. He stresses that the data of comparison must be empirical, gathered by experimentation. It is to be presumed fundamentally that the species, man, is a unity, and that "the same laws of thought are applicable to all men". In the explorer Richard Francis Burton and the speech therapist James Hunt broke away from the Ethnological Society of London to form the Anthropological Society of London , which henceforward would follow the path of the new anthropology rather than just ethnology. It was the 2nd society dedicated to general anthropology in existence. In his keynote address, printed in the first volume of its new publication, The Anthropological Review, Hunt stressed the work of Waitz, adopting his definitions as a standard. Previously Edward had referred to himself as an ethnologist; subsequently, an anthropologist. Similar organizations in other countries followed: The majority of these were evolutionist. One notable exception was the Berlin Society for Anthropology, Ethnology, and Prehistory founded by Rudolph Virchow , known for his vituperative attacks on the evolutionists. During the last three decades of the 19th century, a proliferation of anthropological societies and associations occurred, most independent, most publishing their own journals, and all international in membership and association. The major theorists belonged to these organizations. They supported the gradual osmosis of anthropology curricula into the major institutions of higher learning. By the American Association for the Advancement of Science was able to report that 48 educational institutions in 13 countries had some curriculum in anthropology. None of the 75 faculty members were under a department named anthropology. Anthropology has diversified from a few major subdivisions to dozens more. Practical Anthropology, the use of anthropological knowledge and technique to solve specific problems, has arrived; for example, the presence of buried victims might stimulate the use of a forensic archaeologist to recreate the final scene. The organization has reached global level. For example, the World Council of Anthropological Associations WCAA , "a network of national, regional and international associations that aims to promote worldwide communication and cooperation in anthropology", currently contains members from about three dozen nations. Cultural anthropology, in particular, has emphasized cultural relativism , holism , and the use of findings to frame cultural critiques. Ethnography is one of its primary research designs as well as the text that is generated from anthropological fieldwork. In the United States, anthropology has traditionally been divided into the four field approach developed by Franz Boas in the early 20th century: These fields frequently overlap but tend to use different methodologies and techniques. European countries with overseas colonies tended to practice more ethnology a term coined and defined by Adam F. It is sometimes referred to as sociocultural anthropology in the parts of the world that were influenced by the European tradition. American anthropology Anthropology is a global discipline involving humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Anthropology builds upon knowledge from natural sciences , including the discoveries about the origin and evolution of Homo sapiens , human physical traits, human behavior , the variations among different groups of humans, how the evolutionary past of Homo sapiens has influenced its social organization and culture, and

from social sciences , including the organization of human social and cultural relations, institutions, social conflicts, etc. According to Clifford Geertz , "anthropology is perhaps the last of the great nineteenth-century conglomerate disciplines still for the most part organizationally intact. Long after natural history, moral philosophy, philology, and political economy have dissolved into their specialized successors, it has remained a diffuse assemblage of ethnology, human biology, comparative linguistics, and prehistory, held together mainly by the vested interests, sunk costs, and administrative habits of academia, and by a romantic image of comprehensive scholarship. During the s and s, there was an epistemological shift away from the positivist traditions that had largely informed the discipline. In contrast, archaeology and biological anthropology remained largely positivist. Due to this difference in epistemology, the four sub-fields of anthropology have lacked cohesion over the last several decades. Cultural anthropology , Social anthropology , and Sociocultural anthropology Sociocultural anthropology draws together the principle axes of cultural anthropology and social anthropology. Cultural anthropology is the comparative study of the manifold ways in which people make sense of the world around them, while social anthropology is the study of the relationships among individuals and groups. There is no hard-and-fast distinction between them, and these categories overlap to a considerable degree. Inquiry in sociocultural anthropology is guided in part by cultural relativism , the attempt to understand other societies in terms of their own cultural symbols and values. Ethnography can refer to both a methodology and the product of ethnographic research, i. As a methodology, ethnography is based upon long-term fieldwork within a community or other research site. Participant observation is one of the foundational methods of social and cultural anthropology. The process of participant-observation can be especially helpful to understanding a culture from an emic conceptual, vs. The study of kinship and social organization is a central focus of sociocultural anthropology, as kinship is a human universal. Sociocultural anthropology also covers economic and political organization , law and conflict resolution, patterns of consumption and exchange, material culture, technology, infrastructure, gender relations, ethnicity, childrearing and socialization, religion, myth, symbols, values, etiquette, worldview, sports, music, nutrition, recreation, games, food, festivals, and language which is also the object of study in linguistic anthropology. Comparison across cultures is a key element of method in sociocultural anthropology, including the industrialized and de-industrialized West.

Chapter 5 : An Introduction to Sociology

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

What Do Sociologists Study? Sociologists study all things human, from the interactions between two people to the complex relationships between nations or multinational corporations. While sociology assumes that human actions are patterned, individuals still have room for choices. Becoming aware of the social processes that influence the way humans think, feel, and behave plus having the will to act can help individuals to shape the social forces they face.

The Origins of Sociology Sociologists believe that our social surroundings influence thought and action. For example, the rise of the social sciences developed in response to social changes. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Europeans were exploring the world and voyagers returned from Asia, the Americas, Africa, and the South Seas with amazing stories of other societies and civilizations. Widely different social practices challenged the view that European life reflected the natural order of God. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Western Europe was rocked by technical, economic, and social changes that forever changed the social order. Science and technology were developing rapidly. James Watt invented the steam engine in 1769, and Joseph Lister discovered that an antiseptic barrier could be placed between a wound and germs in the atmosphere to inhibit infection. These and other scientific developments spurred social changes and offered hope that scientific methods might help explain the social as well as the natural world. This trend was part of a more general growth in rationalism. The industrial revolution began in Britain in the late eighteenth century. Mechanical industry was growing, and thousands of people were migrating to cities to work in the new factories. People once rooted in the land and social communities where they farmed found themselves crowded into cities. The traditional authority of the church, the village, and the family were being undermined by impersonal factory and city life. Capitalism also grew in Western Europe in the nineteenth century. This meant that relatively few people owned the means of production—such as factories—while many others had to sell their labor to those owners. At the same time, relatively impersonal financial markets began to expand. The modern epoch was also marked by the development of administrative state power, which involved increasing concentrations of information and armed power (Giddens). Finally, there was enormous population growth worldwide in this period, due to longer life expectancy and major decreases in child death rates. These massive social changes lent new urgency to the development of the social sciences, as early sociological thinkers struggled with the vast implications of economic, social and political revolutions.

The Institutionalization of Sociology Sociology was taught by that name for the first time at the University of Kansas in 1890 by Frank Blackmar, under the course title *Elements of Sociology*, where it remains the oldest continuing sociology course in the United States. The first academic department of sociology was established in 1890 at the University of Chicago by Albion W. Small, who in 1895 founded the *American Journal of Sociology*. Sociology Today Sociology is now taught and studied in all continents of the world. Examples from 48 countries in the world have been collected at.

Chapter 6 : Social Science | Definition of Social Science by Merriam-Webster

The SSHD is a professional society formed by a group of scholars from multiple disciplines.

Ibn Khaldun statue in Tunis , Tunisia “ Sociological reasoning predates the foundation of the discipline. Social analysis has origins in the common stock of Western knowledge and philosophy , and has been carried out from as far back as the time of ancient Greek philosopher Plato , if not before. There is evidence of early sociology in medieval Arab writings. Some sources consider Ibn Khaldun , a 14th-century Arab Islamic scholar from North Africa Tunisia , to have been the first sociologist and father of sociology [12] [13] [14] [15] see Branches of the early Islamic philosophy ; his Muqaddimah was perhaps the first work to advance social-scientific reasoning on social cohesion and social conflict. Comte endeavoured to unify history, psychology, and economics through the scientific understanding of the social realm. Writing shortly after the malaise of the French Revolution , he proposed that social ills could be remedied through sociological positivism , an epistemological approach outlined in *The Course in Positive Philosophy* “ and *A General View of Positivism* Comte believed a positivist stage would mark the final era, after conjectural theological and metaphysical phases, in the progression of human understanding. To say this is certainly not to claim that French sociologists such as Durkheim were devoted disciples of the high priest of positivism. But by insisting on the irreducibility of each of his basic sciences to the particular science of sciences which it presupposed in the hierarchy and by emphasizing the nature of sociology as the scientific study of social phenomena Comte put sociology on the map. Marx rejected Comtean positivism [28] but in attempting to develop a science of society nevertheless came to be recognized as a founder of sociology as the word gained wider meaning. For Isaiah Berlin , Marx may be regarded as the "true father" of modern sociology, "in so far as anyone can claim the title. The sociological treatment of historical and moral problems, which Comte and after him, Spencer and Taine , had discussed and mapped, became a precise and concrete study only when the attack of militant Marxism made its conclusions a burning issue, and so made the search for evidence more zealous and the attention to method more intense. It is estimated that he sold one million books in his lifetime, far more than any other sociologist at the time. While Marxian ideas defined one strand of sociology, Spencer was a critic of socialism as well as strong advocate for a laissez-faire style of government. His ideas were closely observed by conservative political circles, especially in the United States and England. *Suicide* is a case study of variations in suicide rates among Catholic and Protestant populations, and served to distinguish sociological analysis from psychology or philosophy. It also marked a major contribution to the theoretical concept of structural functionalism. By carefully examining suicide statistics in different police districts, he attempted to demonstrate that Catholic communities have a lower suicide rate than that of Protestants, something he attributed to social as opposed to individual or psychological causes. He developed the notion of objective sui generis "social facts" to delineate a unique empirical object for the science of sociology to study. Sociology quickly evolved as an academic response to the perceived challenges of modernity , such as industrialization , urbanization , secularization , and the process of " rationalization ". By the turn of the 20th century, however, many theorists were active in the English-speaking world. Few early sociologists were confined strictly to the subject, interacting also with economics , jurisprudence , psychology and philosophy , with theories being appropriated in a variety of different fields. Since its inception, sociological epistemology, methods, and frames of inquiry, have significantly expanded and diverged. Curricula also may include Charlotte Perkins Gilman , Marianne Weber and Friedrich Engels as founders of the feminist tradition in sociology. Each key figure is associated with a particular theoretical perspective and orientation. *Capitalism at the End of the Twentieth Century* Positivism and anti-positivism[edit] Main article: Positivism The overarching methodological principle of positivism is to conduct sociology in broadly the same manner as natural science. An emphasis on empiricism and the scientific method is sought to provide a tested foundation for sociological research based on the assumption that the only authentic knowledge is scientific knowledge, and that such knowledge can only arrive by positive affirmation through scientific methodology. Our main goal is to extend scientific rationalism to human conduct What has been called our positivism is but a consequence of this

rationalism. The extent of antipositivist criticism has also diverged, with many rejecting the scientific method and others only seeking to amend it to reflect 20th-century developments in the philosophy of science. However, positivism broadly understood as a scientific approach to the study of society remains dominant in contemporary sociology, especially in the United States. Durkheimian, Logical, and Instrumental. Durkheim maintained that the social sciences are a logical continuation of the natural ones into the realm of human activity, and insisted that they should retain the same objectivity, rationalism, and approach to causality. This approach eschews epistemological and metaphysical concerns such as the nature of social facts in favour of methodological clarity, replicability, reliability and validity. Since it carries no explicit philosophical commitment, its practitioners may not belong to any particular school of thought. Modern sociology of this type is often credited to Paul Lazarsfeld, [34] who pioneered large-scale survey studies and developed statistical techniques for analysing them. This approach lends itself to what Robert K. Merton called middle-range theory: Anti-positivism Reactions against social empiricism began when German philosopher Hegel voiced opposition to both empiricism, which he rejected as uncritical, and determinism, which he viewed as overly mechanistic. Various neo-Kantian philosophers, phenomenologists and human scientists further theorized how the analysis of the social world differs to that of the natural world due to the irreducibly complex aspects of human society, culture, and being. Autocritica del sapere strategico, Milan, Franco Angeli, p. At the turn of the 20th century the first generation of German sociologists formally introduced methodological anti-positivism, proposing that research should concentrate on human cultural norms, values, symbols, and social processes viewed from a resolutely subjective perspective. Max Weber argued that sociology may be loosely described as a science as it is able to identify causal relationships of human "social action" especially among "ideal types", or hypothetical simplifications of complex social phenomena. Relatively isolated from the sociological academy throughout his lifetime, Simmel presented idiosyncratic analyses of modernity more reminiscent of the phenomenological and existential writers than of Comte or Durkheim, paying particular concern to the forms of, and possibilities for, social individuality. The antagonism represents the most modern form of the conflict which primitive man must carry on with nature for his own bodily existence.

Chapter 7 : Introduction to Human Evolution | The Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program

Paleoanthropology is the scientific study of human evolution. Paleoanthropology is a subfield of anthropology, the study of human culture, society, and biology. The field involves an understanding of the similarities and differences between humans and other species in their genes, body form, physiology, and behavior.

Chapter 8 : Sociology - Wikipedia

A human society is a group of people who share a common lifestyle and organization. Human societies can be classified in many different ways, depending on who is doing the categorizing.

Chapter 9 : Part 1 | Sociology Introduction to Sociology

1. The study of human society and of individual relationships in and to society. 2. A scholarly or scientific discipline that deals with such study, generally regarded as including sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, and history. 1. the study of society and social.