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this text and reader presents the fundamental concepts and principles of sociology in a highly readable concise way it illustrates these core concepts and principles through thought provoking readings drawn from a variety of classic and contemporary sources

social life is in a constant process of change and sociology can never stand still as a result sociology today is a theoretically diverse enterprise covering a huge range of subjects and drawing on a broad array of research methods central to this endeavour is the use of core concepts and ideas which allow sociologists to

make sense of societies though our understanding of these concepts necessarily evolves and changes this clear and jargon free book introduces a careful selection of essential concepts that have helped to shape sociology and others that continue to do so going beyond brief dictionary style definitions anthony giddens and philip w sutton provide an extended discussion of each concept which sets it in historical and theoretical context explores its main meanings in use introduces relevant criticisms and points readers to its ongoing development in contemporary research and theorizing organized in ten thematic sections the book offers a portrait of sociology through its essential concepts ranging from capitalism identity and deviance to globalization the environment and intersectionality it will be essential reading for all those new to sociology as well as anyone seeking a reliable route map for a rapidly changing world

available in paperback 4 color for the first time this economical paperback text is theoretically balanced offers global perspectives shows how sociology is applied to real problems and contains a built in study guide this introduction to sociology uses the three major theoretical perspectives functionalist conflict and interactionist as tools for examining the social world the author uses illuminating examples to show how society works and how human behavior is shaped by cultural structural and institutional forces as in previous editions the eighth edition integrates two themes that reflect contemporary trends in sociology the first is a reemergence of interest in how sociological knowledge can be applied to social problems or to helping people improve their lives the second is the focus on globalization and its impact on societies and cultures as they become increasingly diverse and interdependent the eighth edition offers an expanded focus on the sociology of media and technology especially the newer technologies of the internet and an online electronic world

an essential guide to the basic concepts that comprise the study of sociology with contributions from an international range of leading experts core concepts in sociology is a comprehensive guide to the essential concepts relevant to the current study of the discipline and wider social science the contributing authors cover a wide range of concepts that remain at the heart of sociology including those from its academic founding and others much more recent in their development the text contains contributions from an international panel of leading figures in the field utilizing their expertise on core concepts and presenting an accessible introduction for students drawing on the widest range of ideas research current literature and expert assessment core concepts in sociology contains over 90 concepts that represent the discipline coverage includes concepts ranging from aging to capitalism democracy to economic sociology epistemology to everyday life media to risk stigma and much more this vital resource sets out the concepts that underpin the study of sociology and wider social science contains contributions from an international panel of leading figures in the field includes a comprehensive review of the basic concepts that comprise the foundation and essential development of the discipline designed as a concise and accessible resource written for students researchers and wider professionals with an interest in the field of sociology core concepts in sociology offers a concise affordable and accessible resource for studying the underpinnings of sociology and social science

this is a compact yet comprehensive title that clarifies and explains the main concepts within sociology it is useful both for new students and for students who wants to refresh their memory and come up with new ideas for essay topics

living sociologically is built around a contemporary applied framework that is designed to help students find their place in a complex and contradictory social world students who enroll in today s introductory sociology courses are already familiar with concepts such as inequality privilege conflict power and structure yet they do not realize how a sociological understanding of these concepts can help them to make sense of and enact change in their diverse social worlds living sociologically pairs central sociological concepts together power and resistance inequality and privilege solidarity and conflict structure and contingency and global and local giving students a framework and a set of tools to help them develop their sociological imaginations for example to understand the sociological and cultural meaning of wealth you also need to understand the sociological and cultural meaning of poverty these pairings illustrated and reinforced through abundant contemporary examples and case studies offer students relevant opportunities for thinking intersectionally and discovering the many ways in which sociological forces are at play in their lives

sociology as a social science refers to the systematic study of the development structure and functioning of society in the last two centuries sociologists analysed many facets of their own societies in the more general context of observing the causes and consequences of the transition from traditional pre industrial life to modern societies the fundamental postulate of sociology is that human beings act not by their own free decisions taken rationally but under the influence of history and culture and the expectations and demands of others human beings are both the products and the makers of their societies during the 20th century sociologists have been particularly interested in the influence of role status class and power on experience and behaviour in the family and in the community in the factors which contribute to cohesion and conflict in social structure and social stratification and in social problems such as crime drug addiction and domestic violence

comprehensive and engaging this textbook introduces students not only to foundational sociological work but also to insights from contemporary sociological theory and research this combined approach ensures that students become familiar with the core of sociology key concepts theories perspectives methods and findings students will acquire the ability to think like a sociologist investigate and understand complex social phenomena this text presents a complete sociological toolkit guiding students in the art of asking good sociological questions devising a sophisticated theory and developing methodologies to observe social phenomena the chapters of this book build cumulatively to equip students with the tools to quickly understand any new sociological topic or contemporary social

problem the textbook also applies the sociological toolkit to selected key sociological issues showing how specific sociological topics can be easily investigated and understood using this approach taking a global and comparative perspective the book covers a rich diversity of sociological topics and social problems such as crime immigration race and ethnicity media education family organizations gender poverty modernization and religion the book presents a range of helpful pedagogical features throughout such as chapter overview and learning goals summaries at the start of every chapter thinking like a sociologist boxes encouraging students to reflect critically on learning points principle boxes summarizing key sociological principles theory schema boxes presenting sociological theories in a clear understandable manner stylized facts highlighting key empirical findings and patterns key concepts and summary sections at the end of every chapter and companion website providing additional material for every chapter for both instructors and students including powerpoint lecture notes discussion questions and answers multiple choice questions further reading and a full glossary of terms this clear and accessible text is essential reading for students taking introductory courses in sociology it will also be useful for undergraduate and graduate courses in other social science disciplines such as psychology economics human geography demography communication studies education sciences political science and criminology

in the third edition of ken allan s highly praised contemporary social and sociological theory book sociological theories and theorists are explored using a straightforward approach and conversational jargon free language filled with examples drawn from everyday life this edition highlights diversity in contemporary society exploring theories of race gender and sexuality that address some of today s most important social concerns through this textbook students will learn to think theoretically and apply theory to their own lives

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Introduction

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