

**Exam 1: Introductory Sociology, Spring 2013**

- ◆ Multiple choice questions are 2 points each (total of 36 points)
- ◆ Short answer questions are 4 points each (total of 40 points)
- ◆ Matching questions are 2 points each (total of 24 points)

**Chapter 1: The Sociological Imagination**

1. Which Sociological perspective might be most useful for a state-by-state comparison of unjust racial inequalities in sentencing decisions for criminal offenses?
  - a. functionalist perspective.
  - b. **conflict perspective.**
  - c. interactionist perspective.
  - d. ethnocentric perspective.
  - e. none of the above.
2. Sammy the Sociologist studies lived everyday experiences with a focus on the lives of college students and the ways their interactions vary according to the social setting. For example, interactions are very different in a party, in the classroom, and at home with their parents. A sociological focus on these interactions represents:
  - a. **microsociology.**
  - b. macrosociology.
  - c. the functionalist perspective.
  - d. anomie.
  - e. the "color line."
3. Which of the following sociologists made major contributions through writing the first book on Sociological methods and emphasizing the importance of inequality and power through the book *Society in America*?
  - a. W.E.B. Du Bois
  - b. Erving Goffman
  - c. August Comte
  - d. Jane Addams
  - e. **Harriet Martineau.**
4. Please read the following excerpt from the Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the *New York Times*.

The New York Times

January 26, 2013

## A City in Egypt Erupts in Chaos Over Sentences

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK and MAYY EL SHEIKH

CAIRO — Egypt's new government lost control of a major city, Port Said, on Saturday as rampaging soccer fans attacked the main jail, drove police officers from the streets and cut off all access to the city.

Set off by the sentencing of 21 Port Said soccer fans to death, the rioting was the sharpest challenge yet to the efforts of Egypt's new Islamist rulers to re-establish order after the two years of turmoil that have followed the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's autocratic president.

By evening, fighting in the streets had left at least 30 people dead, mostly from gunfire, and injured more than 300. Residents said they were afraid to leave their homes. Doctors said the local hospital was overloaded with casualties and pleaded for help. Rioters sacked and burned a police barracks; attacked police stations, the Port Said power plant and the jail, where the convicted men were being held; and closed off all roads to the city as well as the railroad station.

**In Sociological terms, this scene is characterized by:**

- a. applied sociology.
- b. theory.
- c. **anomie.**
- d. private troubles.
- e. informed consent.

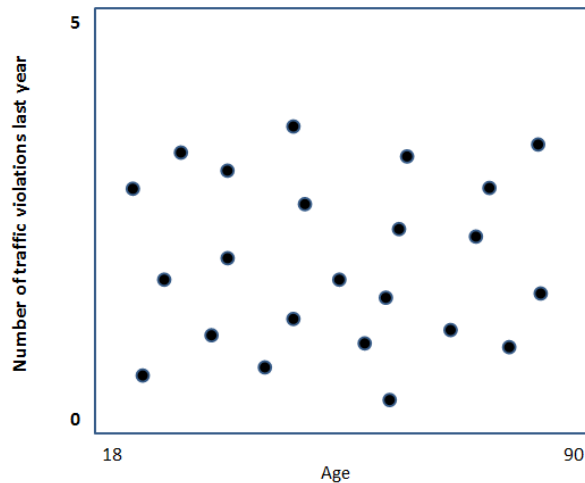
5. **In Sociological terms, the "Demographic Transition" is a "theory" because:**

- a. **it represents a set of statements seeking to explain trends in fertility and mortality that result in periods of high population growth.**
- b. it emphasizes anomie as a characteristic of transitional cultures.
- c. it makes use of the conflict perspective to undertake microsociology.
- d. it represents applied sociology in a clinical setting.
- e. it represents a perspective common in natural science.

6. Recall the short video clip representing a re-enactment of the Milgram shock “experiment.” In Sociological terms, a key finding of the experiment was :
- a. that social structure dramatically shapes social interaction.
  - b. that “public issues” often result in “agency.”
  - c. that the media has key influence on social interaction.
  - d. that individuals will NOT abide by authority if others will be injured by their action.
  - e. that interdependence is a “private trouble.”
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## Chapter 2: Research Methods

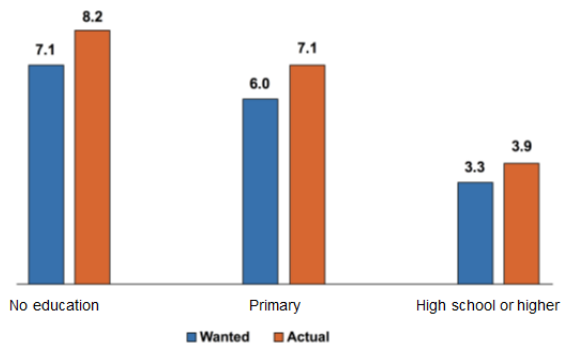
7. Which of the following statements is TRUE when it comes to “defining the problem” in Sociological research.
- a. In social science, carefully “defining the problem” is not an important stage of the scientific method.
  - b. Theory does NOT play a role at this stage of the scientific method.
  - c. It is OK for personal interest to be a motivating factor.
  - d. It is NOT appropriate for personal interest to be a motivating factor.
  - e. Human agency suggests that problems cannot be defined in ways appropriate for social science research.
8. Professor Hunter’s research in rural South Africa relies on a complete list of households in the study area from which she selects a few households to study more in-depth. The selected households represent:
- a. qualitative research.
  - b. a literature review.
  - c. a sample.
  - d. scientific validity.
  - e. research reliability.
9. Which is a key challenge often associated with participant observation research?
- a. Using the library catalog.
  - b. Determining the mean (the average).
  - c. Choosing a precise, representative random sample.
  - d. Deciding the appropriate quantitative analytical approach.
  - e. Gaining acceptance into an unfamiliar group.
10. Jack is a sociology graduate student interested in the association between classroom participation and community volunteerism among high school students. He hypothesizes that students who participate more in classroom discussion are also more likely to volunteer in their communities. Jack arranges to observe several classes at Boulder High School. While he’s observing, he notices that the teacher seems pleasantly surprised at the level of student participation in discussion. The teacher later tells Jack that participation was much higher than usual, potentially demonstrating \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. a sociological theory.
  - b. logic.
  - c. a control variable.
  - d. the Hawthorne effect.
  - e. variable validity.



11. The graph above suggests there is \_\_\_\_\_ between age and the number of traffic violations last year.
- a. no correlation
  - b. a spurious correlation
  - c. a positive correlation
  - d. a negative correlation
  - e. an outlier correlation
12. Referencing the relationship presented in the chart below, what is the independent variable?
- a. Actual number of children
  - b. Desired number of children
  - c. Mother's education
  - d. Zambia
  - e. there is no independent variable

### Actual and Desired Number of Children by Mother's Education, Zambia, 2007

Average Number of Children Women Want and Actually Have



Source: ICF Macro, Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, 2007.

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## Chapter 3: Culture

13. Gene-environment research has demonstrated that smoking is influenced both by genetic and social factors, and that the relative importance of these factors changes across time. This finding would support:
- a. "nature" in the nature-nurture debate.
  - b. "nurture" in the nature-nurture debate.
  - c. the perspective that both "nature" and "nurture" shape social behavior.
  - d. the perspective used by sociobiology.
  - e. the Sociological importance of argot.

14. Which of the following does NOT illustrate a specific example of a cultural universal.
- a. a same-sex marriage.
  - b. a memorial for a deceased ex U.S.-President
  - c. the Super Bowl.
  - d. a survey.
  - e. a McMansion.
15. Professor Hunter often mentions a “yoke” to describe the force of culture on what we do, say, know and make. Culture provides “rules” or “guidelines” that apply to individuals according to:
- a. age
  - b. gender
  - c. race
  - d. all of the above
  - e. none of the above
16. In Sociological terms, a speeding ticket is a \_\_\_\_\_, while a “high five” is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. informal norm, formal norm
  - b. negative formal sanction, non-verbal sanction
  - c. informal norm, informal sanction
  - d. folkway, argot
  - e. agency, anomie
17. Terrorist groups are examples of:
- a. cultural universals.
  - b. cultural relativism.
  - c. countercultures.
  - d. dominant ideologies.
  - e. none of the above.
18. The language of the Tarahumara, Native American people of northwestern Mexico, has a single word -- *siyname* -- to describe the color combination made by mixing green and blue. This is a representation of:
- a. the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.
  - b. a more.
  - c. a folkway.
  - d. Emile Durkheim’s ideas on anomie.
  - e. the Hawthorne effect.

Test Version A

**Write a 1-2 SENTENCE in response. Be sure your answer demonstrates your command of the terminology included in the question. We will read ONLY 2 SENTENCES MAX, so be clear, concise, and don't bother to write any more!**

1. Imagine you are examining the Super Bowl from the Functionalist perspective. Put forward a **hypothesis** and explain why this represents the Functionalist perspective.

*A functionalist hypothesis reflecting the Superbowl's "purpose" in society might be: On Super Bowl Sunday, pizza sales increase therefore offering a boost to driver's in tips.*

*NOTE: Here, it's important to remember that a hypothesis is a "testable statement." This hypothesis could be tested by doing a survey of pizza drivers asking about tip income on Super Bowl Sunday versus tip income at other times.*

2. What does Witt, our textbook's author, mean when he says that "the Sociological Imagination is an empowering tool." (p5)

*The Sociological Imagination is an empowering tool because, by linking macro (history) and micro (biography), it helps us better understand why things are as they are. This deeper understanding can facilitate efforts toward positive change.*

3. Describe two ways in which Sociology differs from common sense – recall that there's relevant material for this answer in both the Witt textbook and the Adler and Adler reading on ethnography.

*Sociology differs from common sense in that 1) Sociological findings are based on systematic research methods as opposed to being based on casual observation and 2) Sociology uses theory to help inform research design and interpretation of results.*

4. What would be an important factor to consider as a "control variable" in a study of the association between educational attainment and income. Why is this an important control variable within this association? (be sure your answer illustrates your understanding of the concepts!)

*A control variable is factor that may affect your primary association of interest. In the case of education and income, gender would be an important control variable since women and men do not achieve equal returns to income per year of education.*

5. Give an example of an applied sociology research project. Describe why your project represents applied sociology.

*Applied Sociology is explicitly program- or policy-driven. An example would be an analysis of middle school bullying behavior in schools that have received an intervention of bullying education as compared to bullying in schools that have not received such intervention.*

6. What is the difference between reliability and operational definition?

*Reliability is the extent to which a chosen measure produced consistent results, while an operational definition is the measure itself. For example, an operational definition of "education" could be "years of formal schooling."*

7. What is peer review? Why is peer review important for Sociological research?

*Peer review is when research papers and grant proposals are reviewed by experts in the topical area. This form of review ensures honesty, integrity, and accuracy in scientific research.*

8. Offer an example of ethnocentrism (different from used in lecture). Explain why this example illustrates ethnocentrism.

*Hitler's horrific actions during World War II represent an extreme form of ethnocentrism. His belief that the Jewish faith and culture were inferior fueled genocide.*

9. Please offer an example of how "culture" contributes to the "social order." Use a specific example related to a real-world element of culture (could be material or non-material).

*Patriotism is an American value which guides behavior. This value, an aspect of non-material culture, guides the fact that we can anticipate singing the national anthem before a sporting event represents a component of the "social order."*

10. Why might the "dominant ideology" have been a threat to the Women's Suffrage movement fighting for women's right to vote? Be sure your answer illustrates your understanding of the term "dominant ideology."

*Womens' inability to vote (a cultural practice) legitimated the dominant ideology that men were appropriately the nation's political and economic leaders.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TA & Recitation: \_\_\_\_\_ A

**Matching Words (each worth 2 points): Match each statement to the most appropriate word from the list.**

**NOTE: Answers cannot be used more than once!**

Private trouble	independent variable	discovery
Public issue	mode	invention
agency	mean	folkway
anomie	maximum	more
theory	minimum	dominant ideology
clinical sociology	secondary analysis	cultural relativism
applied sociology	value neutrality	Hernando Washington
operational definition	control group	Nacirema
dependent variable	cultural universals	sociobiology

agency \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph's parents want him to become a doctor, but he wants to become a social worker. He pursues his dream and enrolls in a program to get his Masters of Social Work. Joseph is using his \_\_\_\_\_.

cultural universals \_\_\_\_\_ Religious rituals

invention \_\_\_\_\_ The iPhone 5

secondary analysis \_\_\_\_\_ Janet the Sociologist goes to the National Opinion Research Center's website to find data to examine the impact of neighborhood crime on children's' school performance. Janet is undertaking \_\_\_\_\_.

Operational defn \_\_\_\_\_ In the analysis noted in the just above, teenage delinquency is measured as number of unexcused absences from school last year.

folkway \_\_\_\_\_ On sidewalks in the U.S., we tend to walk on the right hand side.

Dependent var \_\_\_\_\_ In an analysis of violent music lyrics' impact on teenage delinquency – teenage delinquency is this.

Public issue \_\_\_\_\_ In the U.S. today, over 12 million working-age individuals are unemployed.

Hernando W. \_\_\_\_\_ An example of the influence of social milieu on one's behavior.

Control group \_\_\_\_\_ In an experiment of the effect of TV violence on toddler aggression, this is the group that is NOT exposed to TV violence

Nacerima \_\_\_\_\_ An example of how to view one's own culture as an outsider.

Mode \_\_\_\_\_ In the chart to the right, 18 is the \_\_\_\_\_.

