

# Kentucky Class Notes

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SOC 101 Kershaw  
Fall 2010  
Test 1

8-27-2010

## Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective

- **SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE** is a different way of looking at familiar and unfamiliar cultures.
  - The focus is always on social context.
  - Social Perspective includes interactions among people and how people influence each other. Also how external influences affect people.
  - See Slide 2.
- **SOCIAL LOCATION** affects everything about an individual.
  - This included things like a person's race, culture, world view, and gender.
- Sociology began during the Industrial Revolution when people began migrating from rural to urban areas.
  - See slide 3.
- During this time period the American Revolution and French revolution took place.
  - These revolutions inspired new ways of thinking about society worldwide.
- During the Scientific Revolution the **SCIENTIFIC METHOD** was created.
  - Many early social scientists applied the scientific method to social discovering causes of social problems.
- **AUGUSTE COMTE**
  - Comte is an important name to remember, will be on tests and/or quizzes.
  - He is often referred to as the "Father of Sociology"
  - Coined the term "sociology"
  - Developed the idea of **POSITIVISM** which is the process of applying the scientific method to social problems.
  - See slide 4.

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- One of the first to advocate using sociological study for reform.
- Herbert Spencer
  - He will not be on tests or quizzes, but some of his ideas are important for the study of sociology.
  - Spencer is known for the phrase, “**SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST**” which was applied to societies, not organisms.
  - His theory was that the weak members of society would die out, which would progressively lead to an ever more advanced society.
    - Theory became known as **SOCIAL DARWINISM**
  - He didn't think that sociologists should help cure social ills, instead he believed that no one should interfere with societal evolution.
- **KARL MARX**
  - Marx is an important name to remember, it will show up on tests and/or quizzes.
  - Important to know that Marxism, is **NOT** Communism.
  - Came up with the theory of **CONFLICT THEORY**.
    - Conflict theory states that groups of people are always fighting for scarce resource, and this is what drives society.
  - The struggle is between the owners who control the wealth, and the workers who produce the wealth.
  - Marx claimed that if the workers would revolt then there would be a classless society, and therefore, peace.