

# Kentucky Class Notes

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**PSY 100 Golding  
Fall 2010  
Test 1**

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August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Introduction to Sociology

- **SOCIOLOGY** is the study of human behaviors that are affected by social interactions within groups, organizations, and society (Ferrante)

-According to Anderson, **SOCIOLOGY** is also the scientific study of society and its influence on human groups.

-There are three different ways to study sociology:

1. The scientific or empirical approach involves creating experiments or observations.
2. The philosophical approach involves pondering questions on truth, reality, and ultimate meanings of existence.
3. The moral approach involves finding and addressing the evils found in society.

-There are a variety of reasons why the study of sociology is important (Ferrante.)

1. It allows individuals to examine their lives in the broader context of society.
2. It allows others to recognize the many responses available to them and relate to others who have similar responses and situations.
3. Finally, it allows individuals to become aware and resist destructive forces of society.

-**SOCIOLOGICAL CURIOSITY** allows others to see larger social forces and see a bigger picture that extends beyond the personal.

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- The history of sociology:

1. Sociology first emerged during the time of Plato.
2. French scholar Emmanuel Joseph introduces the term *sociologie* in 1780.
3. It re-emerged during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in response to social problems introduced because of the industrial revolution.
4. Auguste Comte, the father of sociology, who championed for empirical research in the field, popularized the term **POSITIVE FUNCTIONALISM**, a remedy for social ills.

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Functionalism Part 1: the sociological triad, functionalism, sociological imagination

-The sociological triad refers to the three founders of sociology:

1. Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) was the founder of sociology, in particular functionalism.

-**FUNCTIONALISM** is a branch of sociology that emphasizes equilibrium in society. It uses the human body as an analogy, emphasizing how the many body parts in the human body function as a whole, in harmony.

-Durkheim believed that sociology was a science that needed to be studied empirically through the quantitative study of numbers.