**Table of Contents:**

Chapter 1: The sociological gaze: Linking private lives to public issues .................. 2  
Chapter 2: Sociological foundations: Early theorists and theories .......................... 4  
Chapter 3: Sociological theorists and theories .................................................. 9  
Chapter 22: The media and popular culture ....................................................... 16  
Chapter 5: How we become who and what we are: Socialisation and the new genetics... 18  
Chapter 12: The gender order ........................................................................... 23  
Chapter 11: Class and inequality in Australia ..................................................... 25  
Chapter 8: Consumption and lifestyles ............................................................... 28  
Chapter 16: Deviance, crime, and social control ................................................. 31  
Chapter 13: Ethnicity and belonging ................................................................. 33  
Chapter 14: Race and reconciliation in Australia .................................................. 36  
Chapter 6: Youth transitions and youth culture ................................................... 38  
Bonus chapter: Sociology and the environment ................................................... 40  
Chapter 18: Globalisation, power and social movements ....................................... 44
Chapter 1: The sociological gaze: Linking private lives to public issues

Key words:

- **Agency**: the ability of people, individually and collectively, to influence their own lives and the society in which they live
- **Biological determinism**: a belief that individual and group behaviours are the inevitable result of biology
- **Globalisation**: the increased interconnectedness of the cultural, economic, and political aspects of social life; intensified circulation of capital, goods, information, and people across national boundaries; and increased interdependence of countries and regions of the world
- **Neo-liberalism**: a philosophy based on the primacy of individual rights and minimal state intervention
- **Sociological determinism**: a view that peoples behaviour and beliefs are entirely shaped or determined by the social structure or social processes
- **Social institutions**: formal organisations that address public needs such as education, health care, government, and welfare
- **Social structure**: the recurring patterns of social interaction through which people are related to each other, such as social institutions and social groups
- **Sociological imagination**: a term coined by C. Wright Mills to describe the sociological approach to analysing issues. We see the world through a sociological imagination, or think sociologically, when we make a link between personal troubles and public issues
- **Structure-agency debate**: a key debate in sociology over the extent to which human behaviour is determined by social structure

Introducing the sociological enterprise:

- Sociology involves a methodical study of human behaviours and societies. It is the study of the relationship between the individual and society, investigating how human thought, action and interaction shaped and are shaped by society
- The 'sociological gaze' exposes the link between individual experience and the social context in which we live, work and play

Defining sociology:

- According to its Latin and Greek roots, sociology means the study of companionship - that is, the study of human relationships and, more generally, the study of society

No such thing as society?:

- We can define sociology as the methodical study of the ways in which people construct and contribute to society, and how they, in turn, are influenced by society
- The implication is that 'society' is just a collective term for a group of individuals occupying a particular geographic location, but it is actually an entity based on some shared cultural values, norms, practices, institutions, and so on, that create a sense of cohesion and order in our daily lives

The structure-agency debate:
• While we all make our own decisions about how we live our lives - what sociologists refer to as human agency - we do not make them entirely free of social constraints and influences
• Our individual choices, tastes, and behaviours are often shaped by external (social) factors
• Sociologists are concerned with patterned social relationships referred to as social structures and that they are not determined solely by idiosyncratic characteristics of the individuals involved
• The structure-agency debate addresses an age-old philosophical question about the extent to which humans can exercise free will as opposed to their thoughts and actions being determined by external factors
• Sociologists maintain that structure and agency are interdependent rather than mutually exclusive
• As Anthony Giddens puts it, we have the ability to consider 'alternative futures'
• Social structures are an essential part of any society, and can enable us to exercise our agency better

**Sociological thinking:**
• Sociological imagination - 'quality of mind' that enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society - sociologists aim to imagine the connection between individuals and larger social processes
• The distinction between personal troubles and public issues
• When personal troubles are experienced collectively, sociologists highlight underlying social patterns and social influences

**The sociological imagination template: A model of sociological analysis:**
• The sociological imagination can be conceptualised as involving four interdependent sensibilities; historical, cultural, structural and critical

```
    Historical
    ^
   Structural < Sociological analysis > Cultural
    v
    Critical
```
• It is important to be reflexive about sociological knowledge and to remember that the sociological gaze turns inwards as well as outwards

**Capturing the public (sociological) imagination:**
• There is no sociological theory of everything. In fact, sociology is a pluralistic discipline, and as diverse as its subject matter

**Michael Burawoy and Anthony Giddens: Two very public sociologists:**
• Michael Burawoy - most recently known for his promotion of public sociology - Marxist sociologist - studies the working lives of the working class in many different industries - fascinating example of using lived experience as the basis for sociological study and theory
• Anthony Giddens - one of the most influential and widely cited contemporary sociologists - his promotion of 'third-way' politics had a significant impact on the policies and electoral appeal of the British Labour party.

**On being a public sociologist: the four dimensions:**
• Professional sociology - represents the accumulated body of scholarship produced by and for sociologists within the academic community, which is ultimately informed by various publics
• Policy sociology - sociology produced to address the issues and problems identified by various client groups, such as government and non-government agencies, charities and corporations
• Critical sociology - represents an internal dialogue within the academic discipline of sociology, and involves ongoing critique of the assumptions underpinning sociological theories, concepts, methods and findings
• Public sociology - aimed at the broad public outside the academy, it involves a two-way public dialogue that translates sociological theory and research to contribute to public debate, and also informs sociologists' understanding of public issues

**On the utility of sociology, or avoiding 'doom and gloom' sociology:**
• Sociological theories and findings are often publicly challenged
• 'Gloomy sociology' can be characterised by a sole focus on a critique of contemporary society that is always exposed as falling short of some ideal state, which often unintentionally promotes a defeatist stance of 'society is to blame' and the view that little can be done to change it
• Sociology is not vacuum-sealed from the social phenomena it studies; the social forces that come under its gaze, such as globalisation and neo-liberalism, also impact on the discipline itself

**A brief history of Australian sociology:**
• Relatively young academic discipline
• Auguste Comte coined the term sociology
• Even though the discipline had a rather late start in Australia, it grew rapidly and continues to one of the largest academic fields in the social sciences

**Chapter 2: Sociological foundations: Early theorists and theories:**
**Key terms:**
• **Alienation:** a term used by Marx to denote the estrangement of workers from the products of their labour and the loss of control felt by workers under capitalism
• **Anomie:** a concept used by Durkheim for a societal condition in which individuals feel aimless and lack of guidance in social norms. Anomie means to be without laws or norms
• **Capitalism:** an economic system based on the private ownership of natural resources and the means of production, in which commodities are sold for a profit
• **Class/social class:** a central but contested term in sociology that refers to a position in a system of structured inequality based on the unequal distribution of wealth, power and status
• **Collective conscience;** refers to the norms and values held by a group or society
• **Communism;** a utopian vision of society based on communal ownership of resources, cooperation, and altruism to the extent that social inequality and the state no longer exist
• **Empirical;** knowledge that is derived from, and can be tested by, the gathering of data or evidence
• **Enlightenment;** a period in European history that lasted from the seventeenth to the eighteenth century, also known as the age of reason. Enlightenment thinkers advocated the power of reason over the authority of the church, to reach a true understanding of nature and society
• **Historical materialism;** a view of society, developed by Marx, which asserts that material conditions of a particular era provide the basis for all social arrangements
• **Industrial revolution;** beginning in England in the late eighteenth century, the Industrial Revolution introduced major changes to work processes and everyday life that resulted in social and political transformations in society. Agrarian economies and lifestyles gave way to a wage-labour system, the separation of home from work, and the urbanisation of the population
• **Positivism;** a contested view in sociology that social phenomena should be studied in the same way as the natural world, by focusing only on observable and quantifiable events through which causal connections and universal laws can be determined
• **Rationalism;** a tendency to apply reason, to think and act in a calculative manner
• **Socialism;** a political ideology with numerous variations, but with a core belief in the creation of societies in which private property and wealth accumulation are replaced by state ownership and distribution of economic resources
• **Social closure;** a term first used by Weber to describe the way power is exercised to exclude outsiders from the privileges of social membership
• **Social cohesion;** the degree to which people feel they are a part of a wider society made up of people they can generally trust
• **Social Darwinism;** the application of evolutionary laws of natural selection to human societies and to 'explain' social processes and behaviours
• **Social facts;** refers to the subject matter of sociology; social facts are seen as social forces external to the individual
• **Structural functionalism;** a theoretical perspective in sociology in which society is seen as consisting of many complex and interdependent parts that contribute to consensus and social stability
• **Symbolic interactionism;** a theoretical framework first developed by Mead that places strong emphasis on the importance of language and social interactions as key components of the development of sense of self

**Introduction:**
• Foundational theorists and theories that represent the birth of sociology as an academic discipline
• Classical sociology; Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Georg Simmel - founding fathers - all men
• The absence of women is assumed to be a reflection of the relative status and position of men and women in society during the 1800's when sociology first developed

**Sociological beginnings: Birth of a discipline:**
• The term 'sociology' was coined by Auguste Comte in 1839 to mean the scientific study of society
• According to Thomas Hobbes, society evolves when individuals realise that their best interests are served through peace and collective organisation, achieved by entering into a social contract, thus subsuming their individual freedoms to the state and the rule of law
• Sociology as a discipline, in terms of society being studied in a systematic and purposeful way, arose only in the nineteenth century
• The development of enlightenment, the French evolution of 1789, the Industrial revolution, and the internationalisation of trad all had impacts on the beginnings of sociology. As a result of these changes, new ways of understanding the world emerged and new ideas forced people to think about society in different ways

**Auguste Comte and positivism: Sociology as a science:**
• Born in Montpellier, France and grew up in the French revolution
• Wanted to know how society operated and why societies developed in different ways
• Wished to apply scientific methods to the study of society
• His view was that societies passed through major epochs or stages
  - First stage: theological - supernatural beliefs were paramount and people believed that events were the result of God's will
  - Second stage: metaphysical - events were viewed as natural rather than supernatural, and organised religion prevailed
  - Third stage: scientific - positivistic - people would seek the laws that regulated and governed the world

**Herbert Spencer and social evolution:**
• The notions of social progress and the development of societies through different stages articulated by Comte were shared by Herbert Spencer
• Born in Derby, England - engineer and social scientist
• Formulated the view that societies progress from the simple to the complex
• His work was very influential in the nineteenth century
• Was a rival of Darwin's, and coined the term 'survival of the fittest' - by which he meant that superior groups are likely to be most successful in society. This view is referred to as social Darwinism
• Very much a product of his time and believed not only in social evolution but also that some social forms and societies were superior to others

**Karl Marx: Class conflict, alienation and Marxism:**
• Born in Trier, Prussia
• Although Marx was not, strictly speaking, a sociologist his impact on sociological thought has continued to the present day
Believed in social evolution - interested in the major changes brought by the Industrial revolution, and argued that the way in which goods are produced in society affects everything else

'any analysis of history must first begin by studying the production of the means to satisfy these needs - this approach is called historical materialism

Believed that societies evolved progressively according to different stages of economic production

Control over the labour process, exploitation, and alienation
- In capitalism, according to Marx, there are two classes of people - the workers and the capitalists
- The relationship between these classes involves a division of labour - one of the most important aspects of this relationship is that of domination
- A key concept of Marx's, alienation refers to the relationship between people and their labour and the fact that, under capitalism, workers are separated from the things they produce, which thus have no meaning for them

Class inequality
- Marx was concerned about the class/social class inequalities created by industrial capitalism
- Argued that conflict between the two classes was inevitable and eventually capitalism would be replaced by socialism and ultimately communism
- Marx was not just a social theorist but also politically active
- Marxism continues to influence the social sciences, and is sometimes referred to as 'conflict theory' in general or more specifically as neo-Marxism. Conflict theory arose in the 1950's and 1960's, in part as a reaction to structural functionalism, and highlights inequalities in society

Emile Durkheim: Social facts, social cohesion, and anomie:
- The issues of order, structure, integration and function in society arose with the work of Emile Durkheim
- Born in Epinal, France
- Her work contributed to the establishment of sociology as a discipline distinct from other who studied human behaviour, such as psychology
- Agreed that society should be studied on a scientific basis, and he considered that the proper subject matter of sociology should be the study of social-facts
- Argued against an individual approach to social analysis, and thus rejected psychological explanations of social behaviour
- Division of labour
  - Much of Durkheim's work studies how societies maintain social cohesion and social order
  - Interested in how social stability was maintained amidst the massive social changes brought by the Industrial revolution, particularly in terms of the increasing specialisation of work
  - Suggests that two types of solidarity occurred during different historic periods; mechanical solidarity (traditional societies where people were bound together by similar
communal values and beliefs - collective conscience) and organic solidarity (urbanised societies that enabled a greater degree of individual freedom - economic independence)
- Believed that societies change over time from mechanical to organic solidarity
- Although Durkheim expressed confidence in organic solidarity, he was aware that a condition he termed anomie could arise

• Suicide
  - Statistical study that illustrates how a very personal and individual act such as suicide is linked to social relationships and social integration
  - Durkheim identifies a number of different kinds of suicide
    - Egotistic suicide - levels of integration in society are low - people lose a sense of meaning in their lives
    - Altruistic suicide - integration levels are high and an individual feels they are acting for the common good or for shared goals
    - Anomic suicide - in times of social upheaval when people no longer know how to behave
    - Fatalistic suicide - occurs when the individual is over-regulated in society

Max Weber: Rationalisation, the protestant ethic, and social stratification:
• Born in Erfurt, Germany
• Interested in the development of modern capitalism and its impact on society - sought out the reasons for social change
• Rationalism
  - Epitomised by the growth in bureaucratic organisations
  - Both Weber and Marx recognised the efficiency of industrial capitalism, and both also recognised some of the problems that accompanied it
  - Agreed with Marx that alienation was a characteristic of modern society; however, he believed that alienation was not necessarily due to capitalism alone
• The protestant ethic
  - Disagreed with the views of Marx about the importance of economics, and felt that ideas and values were significant contributors to social change
  - Considered that ideas - particularly certain religious ideas - also played a major role in the rise of capitalist society
  - It was this emphasis on capital accumulation - on making more and more money - that 'gave capitalism its characteristic obsession with growth and which has made it such a dynamic system'
• Social stratification: class, status, and party
  - Rejected Marx's views 'of the centrality of class antagonism', and 'revised the key tenets of class theory', acknowledging the importance of the middle class and other bases of social inequality
  - Saw class divisions not just as a reflection of economic divisions, but also of social standing in society. He referred to this as status
  - Status group membership is not open to all - and, in fact is often restricted through what Weber termed social closure
According to Weber, a further basis for social division could be found in 'parties' - groups that can wield power, such as unions, professional bodies, political parties and various interest/pressure groups

**Georg Simmel and social interaction:**
- Born in Berlin, Germany
- Noted for introducing an emphasis on social interaction as a central issue in sociology, which had a major influence on the development of the sociological perspective of symbolic interactionism
- Viewed society not as an external structure imposed on passive individuals, but rather the result of a patterned web of interactions
- Focused on 'form' rather than 'content'
- Sought to define the common features of particular interactions

**Harriet Martineau: An early (feminist) sociologist:**
- Born in Norwich, England
- Independently undertook a scientific study of society
- Best known for her translation of Comte's 'Positive Philosophy', which she also revised and condensed
- Subscribed to the view by Comte that a science of society would be a key to understanding societal change and the uncertainties of the age
- Although Martineau's contributions to sociology were neglected for many years, it is now recognised that she made a significant impact

**Chapter 3: Sociological theorists and theories**

**Key terms:**
- **Modernity:** the historical period from the mid-eighteenth until the late twentieth century, during which traditional agrarian societies were transformed into industrialised, urbanised, and secular nation-states based on the rule of law, science, and reason
- **(the) self:** the reflexive condition of all humans in which they can view themselves objectively as unique individuals by imagining themselves from the standpoint of others
- **Dramaturgical analysis/dramaturgy:** the term used by Goffman to describe how people take on social roles, just as actors do in the theatre
- **Impression management:** a concept used by Goffman to describe individuals' presentation of self as they try to create a specific impression in their interactions with others
- **Emotional labour:** a term used by Hochschild to describe the commodification of feelings experienced by workers in personal service occupations and the use of feelings by employees as part of their paid work
- **Emotional dissonance:** the strain felt by people between the emotions they really feel and those they are supposed to feel
- **Deviance:** behaviours or activities that violate social expectations about what is normal
- **Manifest functions:** functions that are obvious and purposeful
- **Latent functions**: functions that may be hidden
- **Dysfunction**: an institution is dysfunctional when one of its activities impedes the workings of another institution
- **Liberal feminism**: liberal feminism maintains that women should have the same citizenship rights as men, and focuses on equal rights and anti-discrimination
- **Marxist/socialist feminism**: draw on the work of Marx and Engels in order to explain women's inequality, focusing on unpaid labour in the home, wage differentials between women and men, and barriers to women in employment
- **Radical feminism**: defines patriarchy as the cause of women's oppression, and argues that all women are oppressed; instead, it focuses on issues such as sexual assault and prostitution
- **Materialism**: a style of sociological analysis that takes places emphasis on modes of economic production as the key determinant of everything else in society and culture
- **Ethno-methodology**: refers to the methods people use to describe and understand their everyday lives
- **Patriarchy**: a system of power through which males dominate households. It is used more broadly by feminists to refer to society's domination by patriarchal power, which function to subordinate women and children
- **Meta-narrative**: the 'big picture' analysis that frames and organises observations and research on a particular topic
- **Deconstruction**: an approach that aims to expose the multiple and contradictory interpretations of meaning contained within any text
- **Intertextuality**: a term used to describe when one text references or interacts with another text; while still existing in its own right, it also exists in relation to all other texts
- **Governmentality**: the control and regulation of people through practices and knowledges developed within the human sciences and applied to different social institutions, such as schools and prisons
- **Agency**: the ability of people, individually and collectively, to influence their own lives and the society in which they live
- **Structure**: the recurring patterns that occur in social life, in particular the rules and resources that give similar social practices systematic form
- **Structuration**: a theory developed by Giddens to denote the two-way process by which individuals shape their social world, and in turn are shaped by social processes
- **Late modernity**: a period reached towards the end of the twentieth century that refers to the advanced state of industrialisation and capitalism
- **Reflexivity**: the conscious monitoring by an individual in late modern society in order to make and shape oneself to changing circumstances
- **Risk society**: a term coined by Beck to describe the centrality of risk calculations in people's lives in Western society whereby the key social problems today are unanticipated hazards, such as the risks of pollution, food poisoning, and environmental degradation
- **Individualisation**: a trend towards the primacy of individual choice, freedom, and self responsibility