

The World of Sociology

The Question...

- *What is Sociology?*

Society

- *What is society?*

Changes in Society

- *How is today's society different than society 20 years ago*
 - *50 years ago?*
 - *100 years ago?*
 - *500 years ago?*

Comparing society

- *Do you think today's society is more*
 - *Violent?*
 - *Intelligent?*
 - *Tolerant?*
 - *Rebellious?*
- *Why?*

Defining society and what it involves...

- Sociology – The study of patterns of human behavior and interaction
- Analyze:
 - beliefs, values, rules, family organization, educational systems, religions, political and economic systems, societal roles

History of Sociology

- Proto-sociological thought dates back to ancient Greece

Early sociological thought:

- “if the horses would adore the gods, then the gods would look like horses...”

Xenophanes

- Without law and order, the state of nature would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short”

Thomas Hobbes

Background of the study of Sociology

- Modern sociology began in the early 19th C
- 19th C sociologists focused on:
 - Religion
 - Education
 - Economics
 - Psychology
 - Ethics
 - Philosophy

Change

- Developed in a time of radical change:
 - Death of absolute monarchs
 - Age of Enlightenment
 - Industrial Revolution
- Sociology is a response to emerging modernity
- “Sociology” introduced by Comte 1838
 - wanted to unify all studies of humankind

What does a sociologist do?

- *What do you think a Sociologist does?*

What do they do??

- Sociologists:
 - Teach
 - Advise businesses
 - Research and create theories
 - Counsel people / groups

Social Facts

- Sociologists uses social facts to explain patterns in society
 - Crime patterns
 - Unemployment
 - Religious affiliation
 - Sporting events
 - Marriage rates
 - Patterns of educational levels

Scientific Method

- 1. Define question
- 2. Gather info/resources, review literature
- 3. Form hypothesis
- 4. Experiment, collect data
- 5. Analyze data
- 6. Interpret data, draw conclusions
- 7. Publish findings
- 8. Re-test findings (often done by other scientists)

Ethics

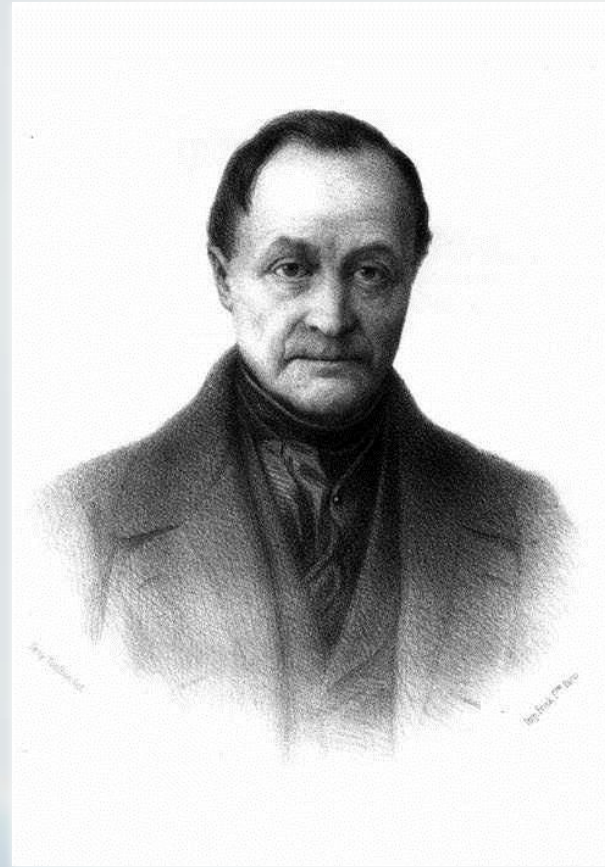
- *What are ethics?*
- *Why is it important to be ethical in sociological research?*

ASA Ethical Principles

- Professional competence
- Integrity
- Professional and scientific responsibility
- Respect rights, dignity & diversity
- Work for the public good and the advancement of sociology

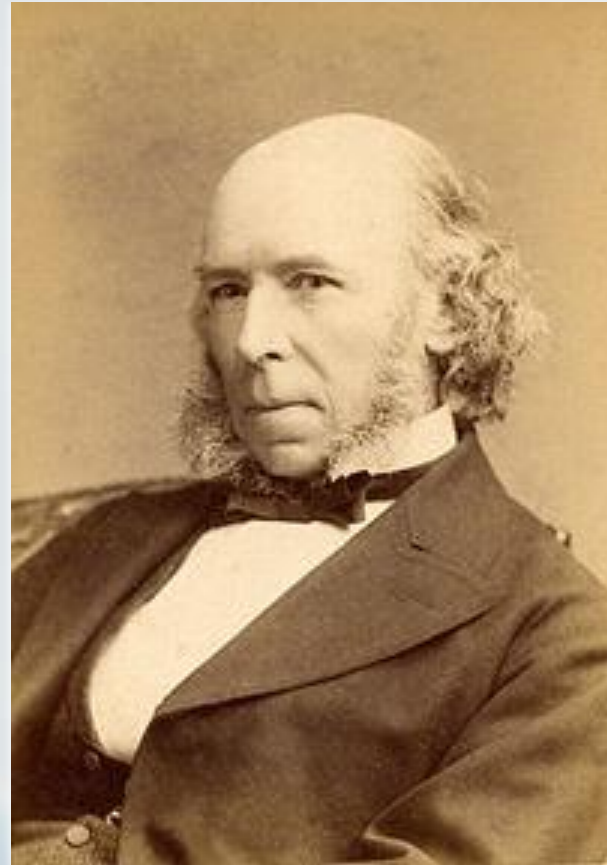
Auguste Comte

- French philosopher b. 1798
- Believed social world can be studied the same way the natural world is.
- Heavily influenced by the events of the France in 19th C.
- Wondered:
 - What brings order?
 - What brings change?



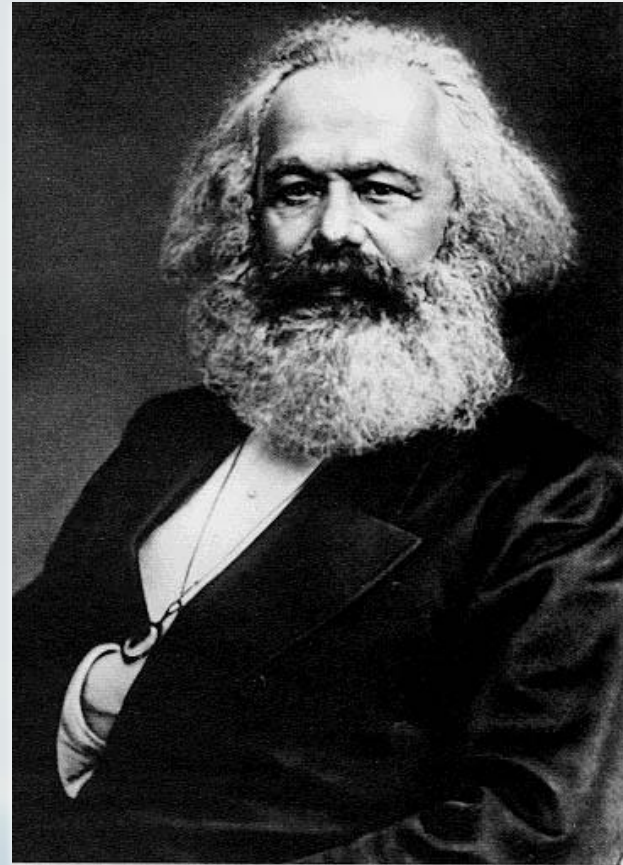
Herbert Spencer

- English philosopher b. 1820
- Embraced concept of evolution in all aspects
- Coined “survival of the fittest”
- Applied natural selection to social issues
- Created *Social Darwinism* theory



Karl Marx

- German philosopher, economist b. 1818
- Viewed society in terms of economics and class
 - Proletariat vs. Bourgeoisie
- Father of Communism



Emile Durkheim

- French philosopher, b. 1858
- How can society exist in the modern world w/o shared religious and ethnic backgrounds?
- Key Idea: *Functionalism*



Max Weber

- German political economist, b. 1864
- Interactions between society and individual
- Subjective vs. objective in sociology
- Religion key reason for different societies in West and East

