Think About It

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self and Inner Circle</th>
<th>How can sociology help me understand my own life and my sense of self?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Community</td>
<td>How can sociology help me to be a more effective employee and citizen in my community?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institutions, Complex Organizations; Ethnic Groups</td>
<td>How do sociologists help us understand and even improve our lives in families, classrooms, and health care offices?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Society</td>
<td>How do national loyalty and national policies affect my life?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Community</td>
<td>How might global events affect my life?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It may win the prize for the strangest place to get a back massage,” but according to a recent scientific article, twins do a good deal of it (Weaver 2010). Scientists studied the movement of five pairs of twin fetuses using ultrasonography, a technique that visualizes internal body structures. By the fourth month of gestation, twin fetuses begin reaching for their “womb-mates,” and by 18 weeks, they spend more time touching their neighbors than themselves or the walls of the uterus. Fetuses that have single-womb occupancy tend to touch the walls of the uterus a good deal to make contact with the mother. Nearly 30% of the movement of twins was directed toward their companions. Movements toward the partner, such as stroking the back of the head, are more sustained and more precise than movements toward themselves, such as touching their own mouths or other facial features. As the authors put it, they’re “wired to be social” (Castiello et al. 2010). In short, humans are innately social creatures.

Strange as it may seem, the social world is not merely something that exists outside of us. As the twins illustrate, the social world is also something we carry inside of us. We are part of it, we reflect on it, and we are influenced by it, even when we are alone. The patterns of the social world engulf us in ways both subtle and obvious, with profound implications for how we create order and meaning in our lives.

Sometimes it takes a dramatic and shocking event for us to realize just how deeply embedded we are in a social world that we take for granted. “It couldn’t happen in the United States,” read typical world newspaper accounts. “This is something you see in Bosnia, Kosovo, the Middle East, Central Africa, and other war-torn areas. . . . It’s hard to imagine this happening in the economic center of the United States.” Yet on September 11, 2001, shortly after 9 A.M., a commercial airliner crashed into a New York City skyscraper, followed a short while later by another plummeting into the paired tower, causing this mighty symbol of financial wealth—the World Trade Center—to collapse. After the dust settled and the rescue crews finished their gruesome work, nearly 3,000 people were dead or unaccounted for. The world as we knew it changed forever that day. This event taught U.S. citizens how integrally connected they are with the international community.

Following the events of September 11, the United States launched its highly publicized War on Terror, and many terrorist strongholds and training camps were destroyed. Still, troubling questions remain unanswered. Why did this extremist act occur? How can such actions be deterred in the future? How do the survivors recover from such a horrific event? Why was this event so completely disorienting to Americans and to the world community? These terrorist acts horrified people because they were unpredicted and unexpected in a normally predictable world. They violated the rules that foster our connections to one another. They also brought attention to the discontent and disconnectedness that lie under the surface in many societies—discontent that expressed itself in hateful violence. That discontent and hostility is likely to continue until the root causes are addressed.

Terrorist acts represent a rejection of modern civil society (Smith 1994). The terrorists themselves see their acts as

Within hours after their birth in October 2010, Jackson and Audrey Pietrykowski became highly fussy if the nurses tried to put them in separate bassinets. At one point shortly after birth, both babies were put in a warmer, and Jackson cried until he found Audrey, proceeding to intertwine his arms and legs with hers. Twins, like all humans, are hardwired to be social and in relationships with others.
What Is Sociology?

Throughout our lives, people are confronted with situations that require some understanding of the social world. Whether we are in a coffee shop, a classroom, a factory, or even at home, we must interact with other people—whether their language and behavior are familiar or unfamiliar. These interactions are often complex and involve many different cultural and social factors. Sociology is the study of these interactions and the ways in which they shape our lives.

Sociologists are interested in understanding how people interact with each other and how these interactions are shaped by social structures. They examine the ways in which social institutions, such as the family, the workplace, and the government, influence our lives. By studying sociology, we can develop a deeper understanding of the social world and how it affects us.
are the foundation of social life, and they are the subject of interest to sociologists. According to the American Sociological Association (2002),

Sociology is the scientific study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender, and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. (p. 1)

As we shall see, sociology is relevant and applicable to our lives in many ways. Sociologists conduct scientific research on social relationships and problems that range from tiny groups of two people to national societies and global social networks.

Unlike the discipline of psychology, which focuses on attributes, motivations, and behaviors of individuals, sociology tends to focus on group patterns. Whereas a psychologist might try to explain behavior by examining the personality traits of individuals, a sociologist would examine the position of different people within the group and how positions influence what people do. Sociologists seek to analyze and explain how people interact with others and belong to groups, how groups work, who has power and who does not, how decisions are made, and how groups deal with conflict and change. From the early beginnings of their discipline (discussed in Chapter 2), sociologists have asked questions about the rules that govern group behavior; about the causes of social problems, such as child abuse, crime, and poverty; and about why nations declare war and kill each other's citizens.

Two-person interactions—dyads—are the smallest units sociologists study. Examples of dyads include roommates discussing their classes, a professor and student going over an assignment, a husband and wife negotiating their budget, and two children playing. Next in size are small groups consisting of three or more interacting people—a family, a neighborhood or peer group, a classroom, a work group, or a street gang. Then come increasingly larger groups—organizations such as sports or scouting clubs, neighborhood associations, and local religious congregations. Among the largest groups contained within nations are ethnic groups and national organizations, including economic, educational, religious, health, and political systems. Nations themselves are still larger and can sometimes involve hundreds of millions of people. In the past several decades, social scientists have also pointed to globalization, the process by which the entire world is becoming a single interdependent entity. Of particular interest to sociologists are how these various groups are organized, how they function, why they conflict, and how they influence one another.

Thinking Sociologically

Identify several dyads, small groups, and large organizations to which you belong. Did you choose to belong, or were you born into membership in the group? How does each group influence decisions you make?

Underlying Ideas in Sociology

All sciences rest on certain fundamental ideas or principles. The idea that one action can cause something else is a core idea in all science—for example, that heavy drinking before driving might cause an automobile accident. Sociology is based on several principles that sociologists take for granted about the social world. These ideas about humans and social life are supported by considerable evidence, but they are no longer matters of debate or controversy—they are assumed at this point to be true. Understanding these core principles helps us see how sociologists approach the study of people in groups.

People are social by nature. This means that humans seek contact with other humans, interact with each other, and influence and are influenced by the behaviors of one another. Furthermore, humans need groups to survive. Although a few individuals may become socially isolated
Sociology and a Unique Way to View the World

The process of change and conflict are natural elements of society. Societies evolve as the result of social change, which is the process of change in the human world. Change can be caused by a variety of factors, such as technological advancements, cultural shifts, and economic developments. Change can also be triggered by social movements, which are organized efforts to bring about social change. Change can be both positive and negative, and it can have a significant impact on the lives of individuals and society as a whole.

Chapter 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

People live in groups, and the rules and the expected behaviors of other individuals can influence the shape and direction of social groups. It is in social groups that we interact, learn to share responsibilities, and develop common meanings and values. Social groups provide the rules and the expected behaviors that regulate interactions between individuals and help to maintain social order. Social groups also provide a sense of identity and belonging, which are essential to our sense of self and our sense of place in society.
hold such ideas and assumptions, that does not mean they are accurate. Sociologists assume human behavior can be studied scientifically; they use scientific methods to test the accuracy of commonsense beliefs and ideas about human behavior and the social world. Would our commonsense notions about the social world be reinforced or rejected if examined with scientifically gathered information? Many commonsense notions are actually contradictory:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds of a feather flock together</th>
<th>Opposites attract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absence makes the heart grow fonder</td>
<td>Out of sight, out of mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look before you leap</td>
<td>He who hesitates is lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can’t teach an old dog new tricks</td>
<td>It’s never too late to learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above all to thine own self be true</td>
<td>When in Rome, do as the Romans do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety is the spice of life</td>
<td>Never change horses in midstream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two heads are better than one</td>
<td>If you want something done right, do it yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can’t tell a book by its cover</td>
<td>The clothes make the man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haste makes waste</td>
<td>Strike while the iron is hot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There’s no place like home</td>
<td>The grass is always greener on the other side</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are examples of maxims that people use as "absolute" guides to live by. They become substitutes for real analysis of situations. The fact is that all of them are accurate at some times, in some places, about some things. Sociological thinking and analysis are about studying the conditions in which they hold and do not hold (Eitzen, Zinn, and Smith 2009).

The difference between common sense and sociology is that sociologists test their beliefs by gathering information and analyzing the evidence in a planned, objective, systematic, and replicable (repeatable) scientific way. Indeed, they set up studies to see if they can disprove what they think is true. This is the way science is done. Consider the following examples of commonsense beliefs about the social world and some research findings about these beliefs.

**Thinking Sociologically**

Do you know any other commonsense sayings that contradict one another? You may also want to take the common sense quiz online at [www.sagepub.com/oswcondensed2e](http://www.sagepub.com/oswcondensed2e).

**Commonsense Beliefs and Social Science Findings**

**Belief: Most of the differences in the behaviors of women and men are based on "human nature"; men and women are just plain different from each other.** Research shows that biological factors certainly play a part in the behaviors of men and women, but the culture (beliefs, values, rules, and way of life) that people learn as they grow up determines how biological tendencies are played out. A unique example illustrates this: In the Wodaabe tribe in Africa, women do most of the heavy work while men adorn themselves with makeup, sip tea, and gossip (Beckwith 1983). Variations in behavior of men and women around the world are so great that it is impossible to attribute behavior to biology or human nature alone.
The Sociological Imagination and the Sociological Perspective

Thinking Sociologically

Discuss this idea with your family or friends. How do you think sociological perspective helps us gain better understanding of the world around us?

Many children around the world do not have access to education. This helps to explain why there is a wide gap in education between different countries. Girls, in particular, are more likely to be denied education. Literacy is a major issue for societies around the globe. These challenges are not limited to countries with low human development. World Bank, 2007. Young and Married 2007.

Beliefs: Given high divorce rates in the United States, and Canada, marriage is in serious trouble.

World Bank: Women in many countries (including 2007). There are only a few countries of the developing world where women hold higher status in the world. Improving girls' access to education is a key issue. About 1.5% of the world's population are girls aged 15 years or older who have never attended school. In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the gender gap is widening. The World Bank estimates that 87% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa have never attended school. The beliefs of different cultures influence our perceptions of what is right and wrong. The belief that women are inferior to men is found in many parts of the world. However, in some countries, women's rights are being protected. In other parts of the world, women's rights are being denied. Women's role in society is changing. The importance of women's contributions to society is being recognized.

Chapter 1, Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World.
our personal experiences and problems by examining their broader social context—by looking at the big picture.

As sociologist C. Wright Mills (1959) explains, individual problems or private troubles are rooted in social or public issues, what is happening in the social world outside of one's personal control. This relationship between individual experiences and public issues is the sociological imagination. For Mills, many personal experiences can and should be interpreted in the context of large-scale forces in the wider society.

Consider, for example, the personal trauma caused by being laid off from a job. The unemployed person often experiences feelings of inadequacy or lack of worth. This, in turn, may produce stress in a marriage or even result in divorce. These conditions not only are deeply troubling to the person most directly affected but also are related to wider political and economic forces in society. The unemployment may be due to corporate downsizing or to a corporation taking operations to another country where labor costs are cheaper and where there are fewer environmental regulations on companies. People may blame themselves or each other for personal troubles such as unemployment or a failed marriage, believing that they did not try hard enough. Often, they do not see the connection between their private lives and larger economic forces beyond their control. They fail to recognize the public issues that create private troubles.

Families also experience stress as partners have, over time, assumed increasing responsibility for their mate's and their children's emotional and physical needs. Until the second half of the twentieth century, the community and the extended family unit—unts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins—assumed more of that burden. Extended families continue to exist in countries where children settle near their parents, but in modern urban societies, both the sense of community and the connection to the extended family are greatly diminished. There are fewer intimate ties to call on for help and support. Divorce is a very personal condition for those affected, but it can be understood far more clearly when considered in conjunction with the broader social context of economics, urbanization, changing gender roles, lack of external support, and legislated family policies.

As we learn about sociology, we will come to understand how social forces shape individual lives, and this will help us understand aspects of everyday life we take for granted. In this book, we will investigate how group life influences our behaviors and interactions and why some individuals follow the rules of society and others do not. A major goal is to help us incorporate the sociological perspective into our way of looking at the social world and our place in it. Indeed, the notion of sociological imagination—connecting events from the global and national level to the personal and intimate level of our own lives—is the core organizing theme of this book.

Thinking Sociologically

How does poverty, a war, or a recession cause personal troubles for someone you know? Why is trying to explain the causes of these personal troubles by examining only the personal characteristics of those affected not adequate?

Some sociologists study issues and problems and present their results for others to use. Others become involved in solving the very problems they study. The "Sociology in Your Social World" feature on the next page provides an extension on the sociological imagination, illustrating how some use their sociological knowledge to become involved in their communities or the larger world; these students of sociology advocate an active role in bringing about change.

Questions Sociologists Ask—and Don’t Ask

Sociologists ask questions about human behavior in social groups and organizations—questions that can be studied scientifically. Sociologists, like other scientists, cannot answer certain questions—philosophical questions about the existence of God, the meaning of life, the ethical implications of stem cell research, or the morality of physician-assisted suicide. What sociologists do ask, however, is this: What effect does holding certain ideas or adhering to certain ethical standards have on the behavior and attitudes of people? For example, are people more likely to obey rules if they believe that there are consequences for their actions in an afterlife? What are the consequences—positive and negative—of allowing suicide for terminally ill patients who are in pain? Although sociologists may study philosophical or religious beliefs held by groups, they do not make judgments about what beliefs are right or wrong or about moral issues involving philosophy, religion, values, or opinion. They focus on issues that can be studied objectively and scientifically, rather than those that are judgmental or value-based.

Applied sociologists, those who carry out research to help organizations solve problems, agree that the research itself should be as objective as possible. After the research is completed, the applied sociologists might use the research findings to explore policy implications and make recommendations for change.

Consider the following examples of questions sociologists might ask:

- Who gets an abortion, why do they do so, and how does society as a whole view abortion? These are matters of fact that a social scientist can explore. However, sociologists avoid making
How Will You Spend the Twenty-First Century?

Sociology in Your Social World

By Peter Driehn

Chapter 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

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Reflect

Chapter 1

Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

How Will You Spend the Twenty-First Century?

Sociology in Your Social World

By Peter Driehn

Chapter 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

1

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ethical judgments about whether abortion is right or wrong. Such a judgment is a question of values, not one that can be answered through scientific analysis. The question about the morality of abortion is very important to many people, but it is based on philosophical or theological rationale, not on sociological findings.

- Who is most beautiful? Cultural standards of beauty impact individual popularity and social interaction, and this issue interests some social scientists. However, the sociologist would not judge which individuals are more or less attractive. Such questions are matters of aesthetics, a field of philosophy and art.

- What are the circumstances around individuals becoming drunk and drunken behavior? This question is often tied more to social environment than to alcohol itself. Note that a person might be very intoxicated at a fraternity party but behave differently at a wedding reception, where the expectations for behavior are very different. The researcher does not make judgments about whether use of alcohol is good or bad or right or wrong and avoids—as much as possible—opinions regarding responsibility or irresponsibility. The sociologist does, however, observe variations in the use of alcohol in social situations and resulting behaviors. An applied sociologist researching alcohol use on campus for a college or for a national fraternity may, following the research, offer advice based on that research about how to reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths or sexual assault incidents on college campuses (Sweet 2001).

Sociologists learn techniques to avoid letting their values influence their research designs, data gathering, and analysis. Still, complete objectivity is difficult at best, and what one chooses to study may be influenced by one’s interests and concerns about injustice in society. The fact that sociologists know they will be held accountable by other scientists for the objectivity of their research is a major factor in encouraging them to be objective when they do their research.

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**Thinking Sociologically**

From the information you have just read, what are some questions sociologists might ask about divorce or cohabitation or same-sex unions? What are some questions sociologists would not ask about these topics, at least while in their roles as researchers?

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**The Social Sciences: A Comparison**

Not so long ago, our views of people and social relationships were based on stereotypes, intuition, superstitions, supernatural explanations, and traditions passed on from one generation to the next. Natural sciences first used the scientific method, a model later adopted by social sciences. Social scientists, including anthropologists, psychologists,
Thinking Sociologically

By understanding the broader overview of the social world, sociology provides insights into how society functions and how individuals and groups interact within it. Sociology examines the relationships between people, organizations, and social structures, helping us to understand how society is shaped and how individuals are affected by it. Sociology also helps us to identify and analyze social problems, such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination, and to develop strategies for addressing them.

These problems are studied within the broader context of social movements and political processes, which shape the distribution of power and resources in society. By studying the historical and cultural contexts of social phenomena, sociology helps us to understand how social change occurs and how different groups and individuals are affected by it.

Moreover, sociology is a discipline that focuses on the interconnections between individuals and society, emphasizing the importance of social context in shaping human behavior. By exploring these connections, sociology provides a framework for understanding the complex interplay between individual actions and collective outcomes.

In conclusion, sociology is a powerful tool for understanding the complexities of social life and for developing solutions to social problems. By studying sociology, we can gain a deeper understanding of the world around us and contribute to a more just and equitable society.
others remain impoverished? Why some people engage in criminal behaviors and others conform rigidly to rules? Although sociologists do not have all the answers to such questions, they do have the perspective and methods to search for a deeper understanding of these and other patterns of human interaction.

Two ingredients are essential to the study of our social world: a keen ability to observe what is happening in the social world and a desire to find answers to the question of why it is happening. The value of sociology is that it affords us a unique perspective from which to examine the social world, and it provides the methods to study systematically important questions about human interaction, group behavior, and social structure. The practical significance of the sociological perspective is that it

- fosters greater self-awareness, which can lead to opportunities to improve one’s life;
- encourages a more complete understanding of social situations by looking beyond individual explanations to include group analyses of behavior;
- helps people understand and evaluate problems by enabling them to view the world systematically and objectively rather than in strictly emotional or personal terms;
- cultivates an understanding of the many diverse cultural perspectives and how cultural differences are related to behavioral patterns;
- provides a means to assess the impact of social policies;
- reveals the complexities of social life and provides methods of inquiry to study them; and
- provides useful skills in interpersonal relations, critical thinking, data collection and analysis, problem solving, and decision making.

This unique perspective has practical value as we carry out our roles as workers, friends, family members, and citizens. For example, an employee who has studied sociology may better understand how to work with groups and how the structure of the workplace affects individual behavior, how to approach problem solving, and how to collect and analyze data. Likewise, a schoolteacher trained in sociology may have a better understanding of classroom management, student motivation, causes of poor student learning that have roots outside the school, and other variables that shape the professional life of teachers and the academic success of students. Consider the example in “Sociology in Your Social World,” which explores how high school groups such as “jocks” and “burnouts” behave and why each clique’s behavior might be quite logical in certain circumstances. *Burnouts and Jocks in a Public High School* explores a social environment very familiar to most of us, the social cliques in a high school.

### What Sociologists Do

Sociologists are employed in a variety of settings. Although students may first encounter them as teachers and researchers in higher education, sociologists also hold nonacademic, applied sociology jobs in social agencies, government, and business. Table 1.1 illustrates that a significant portion of sociologists work in business, government, and social service agencies (American Sociological Association 2006; Dotzel and Koppel 1999).

**Table 1.1** Where Sociologists Are Employed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places of Employment</th>
<th>Percentage Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College or university</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government (all positions)</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private, for-profit business</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not-for-profit public service organizations</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: American Sociological Association (2006).*

College graduates who seek employment immediately after college (without other graduate work) are most likely to find their first jobs in social services, administrative assistantships, or some sort of management position. The areas of first jobs of sociology majors are indicated in Figure 1.1 on page 16. With a master’s or a doctorate degree, graduates usually become college teachers, researchers, clinicians, and consultants.

Consider your professor. The duties of professors vary depending on the type of institution and the level of courses offered. Classroom time fills only a portion of the professor’s working days. Other activities include preparing for classes, preparing and grading exams and assignments, advising students, serving on committees, keeping abreast of new research in the field, and conducting research studies and having them published. This “publish or perish” task is deemed the most important activity for faculty in some major universities.

In businesses, applied sociologists use their knowledge and research skills in human resources or to address organizational needs or problems. In government jobs, they provide data such as population projections for education and health care planning. In social service agencies, such as police departments, they help address deviant behavior, and in health agencies, they may be concerned with doctor-patient interactions. Applied sociology is an important aspect of the field; you will find featured inserts in some chapters discussing the work of an applied sociologist.
The "Boys Will Be Boys" Society

Sociology in Your Social World

Bumouts and Jocks in a Public High School

Chapter 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World
These examples will provide a picture of what one can do with a sociology degree. In addition, at the end of some chapters you will find a section discussing policy examples and implications related to that chapter topic. Table 1.2 provides some ideas of career paths for graduates with a degree in sociology.

**What Employers Want and What Sociology Majors Bring to a Career**

Sociologists and other social scientists have studied what job skills and competencies employers seek in new employees, in addition to subject matter expertise. They tend to focus on writing, speaking, analytical skills—especially when faced with complex problems, comprehension of other cultures and of diversity within the United States, ability to work effectively in diverse teams, and ability to gather and interpret quantitative information. As Table 1.3 indicates, employers want more of these kinds of skills from college graduates.

The following skills and competencies are part of most sociological training:

1. Communication skills (listening, verbal and written communication, working with peers, and effective interaction in group situations)

2. Analytical and research skills

3. Computer and technical literacy (basic understanding of computer: hardware and software programs)

4. Flexibility, adaptability, and multitasking (ability to set priorities, manage multiple tasks, adapt to changing situations, and handle pressure)

5. Interpersonal skills (working with coworkers)

6. Effective leadership skills (ability to take charge and make decisions)

7. Sensitivity to diversity in the workplace and with clients

8. Organizing thoughts and information and planning effectively (ability to design, plan, organize, and implement projects and to be self-motivated)

9. Ability to conceptualize and solve problems and be creative (working toward meeting the organization's goals)

10. Working with others (ability to work toward a common goal)

11. Personal values (honesty, flexibility, work ethic, dependability, loyalty, positive attitude, professionalism, self-confidence, willingness to learn) (Hansen and Hansen 2003)

These competencies reflect skills stressed in the sociology curriculum: an ability to understand and work with others, research and computer skills, planning and organizing skills, oral and written communication skills, and critical thinking skills (World Wide Learn 2007).

We now have a general idea of what sociology is and what sociologists do. It should be apparent that sociology is a broad field of interest; sociologists study all aspects of human social behavior. The next section of this chapter shows how the parts of the social world that sociologists study relate to each other, and it outlines the model you will follow as you continue to learn about sociology.
The Social World Model

Thinking Sociologically

Table 1.3 Percentage of Employers Who Want College Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>72%</th>
<th>71%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(global issues)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercollegiate experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(teamwork in diverse groups)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal and Social</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaintly reasoning</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completeness of seeing</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate group thinking</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information literacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and oral</td>
<td></td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical thinking and</td>
<td></td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analytic reasoning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork skills in diverse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal and Practical Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural values and traditions—U.S. and global</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of the United States in the world</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Issues</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning Outcomes:
1. Emphasis on the development of critical thinking abilities.
2. Development of communication and interpersonal skills.
3. Understanding of sociocultural dynamics.
4. Recognition of the role of sociology in understanding social issues.

Table 1.2 What Can You Do With a Sociology Degree?

- Customs officer
- FBI agent
- Telecommunications researcher
- Policy analyst
- City planning officer
- Immigration officer
- Census worker
- Labor relations specialist
- Research assistant
- Attorney
- Dean of Student Life
- College professor
- Social worker
- Social worker
- Academy of Government
- Business of Management
These men carry the supplies for a new school to be built in their local community—Korphe, Pakistan. The trek of more than 20 miles up mountainous terrain was difficult, but their commitment to neighbors and children of the community made it worthwhile. The project was a local one (micro level), but it also was made possible by an international organization—Central Asia Institute—founded as a charitable organization by Greg Mortenson of Montana.

Gap, Abercrombie & Fitch, Eddie Bauer, General Motors Corporation, or Starbucks—or organizations such as local or state governments. The largest groups include nations or international organizations, such as the sprawling networks of the United Nations or the World Trade Organization. Groups of various sizes shape our lives. Sociological analysis requires that we understand these groups at various levels of analysis.

The social world model helps us picture the levels of analysis in our social surroundings as an interconnected series of small groups, organizations, institutions, and societies. Sometimes, these groups are connected by mutual support and cooperation, but sometimes, there are conflicts and power struggles over access to resources. What we are asking you to do here and throughout this book is to develop a sociological imagination—the basic lens used by sociologists. Picture the social world as a linked system made up of increasingly larger circles. To understand the units or parts in each circle of the social world model, look at the social world model shown on this page: