Sociology in Action

Preface

If you, like us, have found yourself searching for activities to bring into your classroom and engage your introductory sociology students, you know why we wrote this book. We knew we couldn’t be alone in our quest to get students to do more than read the text—we want them to do sociology, to understand and apply the terms and concepts they read about and to realize them in the real world. Over the course of writing and refining the manuscript, and reading the reviews of instructors excited to see activities that many of us have been cobbling together over the years now residing within a textbook, we became even more convinced that our approach is one that offers instructors material for how they want to teach and offers students the foundational content they need in sociology, as well as engaging activities that will help them do sociology.

Sociology in Action puts all the tools instructors need to create an active learning course into one student-friendly text. Active learning teaching techniques increase student learning, retention, and engagement with course material, but they also require more creative effort than traditional lectures. No other sociology textbook works to ease this load by providing full coverage of introductory content and active learning exercises fully integrated into the text (with clear instructions on how to use and assess them available through the instructor resources). Sociology in Action provides instructors of small, medium, large, and online introductory courses with the material they need to create learning experiences for their students, including creative, hands-on, data analytic, and community learning activities.

A group of gifted instructors who use active learning techniques in their own classrooms have written the book’s chapters. The contributors, focusing on their respective area of expertise, expertly weave together content material, active learning exercises, discussion questions, real-world examples of sociologists in action, and information on careers that use sociology. Together, we have created a book that requires students to do sociology as they learn it and creates a bridge between the classroom and the larger social world.
Organization and Features

The clear organizational style of each chapter helps students follow the logic of the text and concentrate on the main ideas presented. Each chapter opens with focal learning questions and each major section ends with review questions to remind students of the emphasis in the presented material. In addition, the chapters contain an analysis of subject matter from both major theoretical perspectives and, where appropriate, middle-range theories. Chapters close with a conclusion, and end-of chapter resources include a list of key terms and a summary that addresses the focal learning questions. The active learning activities and Consider This marginal questions throughout each chapter help create a student-centered class that engages student interest.

The book’s rich pedagogy supports active learning and engagement throughout each chapter.

- **Learning Questions** start off every chapter, introducing students to the focus of the chapter and preparing them for the material it covers. These questions are tied to the learning objectives provided in the instructor resources. Each learning question addresses a main section of the chapter.

- **Check Your Understanding** questions appear at the end of every major section in a chapter, providing students with an opportunity to pause in their reading and ensure that they comprehend and retain what they’ve just read.

- **Doing Sociology activities** appear multiple times in each chapter. These active learning exercises enable students to apply the sociological concepts, theories, methods, etc. covered in the text. Each chapter contains a variety of exercises so that instructors can use them in-class, online, or as assignments conducted outside of class. Reference the Doing Sociology activities and the clear instructions on how to carry out and assess them—and on how they relate to the chapter objectives—in the activity guide available through the book’s instructor resources. Additional exercises can also be found in the digital resources accompanying the text and its coursepack.

- **Consider This** questions are designed to spark deep thinking as well as classroom discussions.

- **Sociologists in Action boxes** feature a student or professional “sociologist in action” doing public sociology related to the material covered in the chapter. This feature provides examples of how sociology can be used to make a positive impact on society.
• **Key terms** appear in bold and are defined in the margins of the text where they appear for the first time. This gives students easy access to key terms while seeing them within the context in which they are substantively discussed.

• Every chapter concludes with a **Chapter Summary** that restates the learning questions presented at the start of the chapter and provides answers to them. This provides an important way for students to refresh their understanding of the material and retain what they’ve learned.

In addition, as appropriate, chapters include information on **careers** that relate to the chapter content. This allows students to recognize, even during their first sociology course, the wide variety of career options a sociology degree provides.

### Digital Resources

We know how important good resources can be in the teaching of sociology. Our goal is to create resources that both support and enhance the book’s themes and features. SAGE edge offers a robust online environment featuring an impressive array of tools and resources for review, study, and further exploration, keeping both instructors and students on the cutting edge of teaching and learning. SAGE edge content is open access and available on demand. Learning and teaching has never been easier!

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  o **Activity and quiz options** allow you to choose only the assignments and tests you want
  o Instructions on how to use and integrate the comprehensive assessments and resources provided
  o An **Activity Guide** details all activities from the print book, as well as supplementary exercises, the learning objectives they address, and notes to instructors
  o **SAGE Premium video**, with corresponding multimedia assessment tools, bring core Sociology concepts to life through original, animated videos and licensed news clips, increasing student engagement and appealing to different learning styles.
  o EXCLUSIVE, influential **SAGE journal and reference content**, built into course materials and assessment tools, that ties important research and scholarship to chapter concepts to strengthen learning
  o Editable, chapter-specific **PowerPoint® slides** offer flexibility when creating multimedia lectures so you don’t have to start from scratch but you can customize to your exact needs
  o **Integrated links to the interactive eBook** make it easy for your students to maximize their study time with this “anywhere, anytime” mobile-friendly version of the text. It also offers access to more digital tools and resources, including SAGE Premium Video
  o All **tables and figures** from the textbook

SAGE EDGE FOR STUDENTS
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- **Multimedia links** to open web video and audio resources that allow students to dive deeper into topics with a click of the mouse
- Exclusive access to influential **SAGE journal and reference content**, that ties important research and scholarship to chapter concepts to strengthen learning

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— Kathleen Odell Korgen and Maxine P. Atkinson
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