

# Preface

In the last few years, the world has changed more than any of us expected, perhaps more than we could have imagined. In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic spread around the globe, altering our everyday lives in countless ways and causing more than 6 million deaths. Then, in summer, violence directed against a man by officers of the Minneapolis police department changed the United States once again. The death of George Floyd repeated a pattern of deadly force against Black people that has become all too familiar, but no less horrific, prompting a national racial reckoning. During the past several years, there has been a steady increase in economic inflation, harming households across the country and around the world. Further turmoil unfolded as Russian forces invaded Ukraine, causing tens of thousands of deaths and widespread destruction, and prompting fear that a regional military conflict would escalate out of control and engulf the entire world. Then, in mid-2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned past decisions guaranteeing reproductive rights, sparking protests across the country.

There is no surprise in the fact that surveys indicate that a substantial majority of U.S. adults are unhappy with the way things are going in the United States. This dissatisfaction is made worse by the political polarization that has left the population more divided than ever over the causes of the country's troubles and what to do about them. People are lining up on one side or another as they confront issues—and one another—over immigration, climate change, racial conflict, increasing economic inequality, rising rates of crime, and frightening levels of gun violence.

Consensus seems elusive, perhaps because people disagree not only over policy but also about what kind of nation we want to be. Many of us feel angry, afraid, and overwhelmed.

In such a situation, what are we to do? We might find an answer to this question in the wisdom offered more than sixty years ago by a sociologist named C. Wright Mills. Our feeling that life is spinning out of control, that changes and challenges threaten to overwhelm us, results from the fact that our personal problems are rooted in social forces far bigger than we are. We must turn our attention to larger societal patterns—which we do by making use of the sociological imagination—for a deeper understanding of what's going on and why. Using the sociological perspective, we draw insight and also gain power because we are now confronting the source of our distress. Focusing on how our national and global societies operate, we are able to join together with others to generate change and, in the process, transform ourselves.

For almost 200 years, sociologists have been working to better understand how society operates. We do not arrogantly imagine that we have *all* the answers, but we are confident that we have learned quite a lot that we can share with others.

To our students, we sociologists offer an introduction to the fascinating and very practical study of the social world. Our invitation is this: Share what we have learned and then consider appropriate paths of action. After all, as we come to know our world, we all have a responsibility to do what we can to improve it.

*Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition*, provides you with a comprehensive understanding of how society works. You will find this title to be informative, engaging, and even entertaining. Before you have finished the first chapter, you will discover that sociology is both enlightening and extremely useful. Sociology is also a great deal of fun. Most important, *sociology is a field of study that can change the way you see the world and open the door to many new opportunities*. What could be more exciting than that?

## What's New in the Sixteenth Edition?

**New! More interactive learning with Revel.** Digital learning engages students by transforming passive reading of the printed page into interactive discovery in a digital world. John Macionis is committed to making all his titles as interactive as possible. In this revision, you will find a number of dynamic and interactive features that will increase student interest and learning.

- **Window on the World Global Maps** are interactive and come with a companion map inviting students to discover how one variable (such as a nation's level of economic development) is linked to another variable (such as degree of gender equality).
- **Seeing Ourselves National Maps** show national patterns and also invite students to zoom in to explore their own local communities. Revel national maps are also presented with companion maps so that students can compare patterns to discover how one variable (such as the rate of teenage pregnancy) appears to be linked to another (such as the rate of poverty).
- **Power of Society predictive graphs** invite students to estimate social patterns from our society's past, present, or future, and Revel invites them to compare their estimates to research results. Many students, for example,

underestimate the extent of inequality in U.S. society or overestimate the share of the population that is born abroad. Power of Society predictive graphs are found at the beginning of each chapter,

- **Revel's interactive technology** empowers students to dig deeper into maps and figures following their own interests to experience “discovery learning.”

**New! Comprehensive coverage of the pandemic.** Students will have the latest data on infections, hospitalizations, and deaths for various categories of the population and for national and global regions. In addition, each chapter offers part of the story of how COVID-19 transformed everyday life, changing patterns of travel, immigration, work, schooling, and shopping, and increasing the use of mass media and social media while, at the same time, decreasing the size of prison populations. The pandemic has also eroded the separation of work and family life, as it has increased our experience of social isolation. Numerous discussions of COVID-19 point out how the pandemic weakened social groups, increased the power of labor unions, changed our system for voting, decreased rates of marriage and divorce, contributed to a decline in life expectancy, intensified social inequality in the United States, and increased poverty in the world as a whole.

**New! Unmatched attention to diversity, equity, and inclusion.** This new revision reflects best practices for use of language, and directs attention to disadvantaged categories of the population based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual identity, and disability. There are new discussions of critical race theory and how the DEI movement has shifted cultural values in the United States and increased the presence of Black and multiracial people in the mass media. There is expanded coverage of the transgender and LGBTQ communities, as well as expanded discussion of a host of issues from controversy in women's sports to the use of deadly force by police.

**New! A renewed promise of currency.** *Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition* represents a major revision in response to major changes in our world. This transformative revision is supported with 750 *new* research references—on average, forty per chapter. On average, two-thirds of all chapter references are now dated 2020, 2021, or 2022.

**New! Theoretical analysis plus political analysis.** *Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition* provides theoretical analysis in every chapter, applying all of our discipline's approaches. At the same time, students hear political leaders and mass media pundits discuss issues using the language of politics. Therefore, this revision expands the analysis to include political terms and concepts that reflect both left and right positions on the political spectrum as well as the results of political surveys involving topics at hand. Gaining both theoretical and political literacy enables students to link the sociology they learn to their everyday lives as active citizens.

**New! All the data.** More than 2,300 different statistics are found in this title. *Every one* of these statistics has been researched and updated to reflect the latest available data. This revision contains the most recent data on the inequality of income and wealth, gun violence, abortion, unemployment, crime, health, the diversity of our society, and other variables. A large share of these data reflect the importance of race, class, and gender.

**New! Examples and illustrations.** In this age of instant social media, the historical literacy of many students is limited to about two years. Therefore, the sixteenth edition provides recent examples and illustrations, from the 2020 presidential election to the BLM movement to the war in Ukraine to the Uvalde school shootings to recent Supreme Court decisions on abortion and other issues so that you can have confidence that your course is both relevant and current.

**Updated! Current Events Bulletins.** Found at the beginning of each chapter, these news bulletins inform students of the most recent events and current trends related to the chapter's focus. These bulletins are all new for the sixteenth edition in Revel, and John Macionis will continue to update these bulletins twice each year going forward.

**Updated! Full chapter on social media.** Macionis titles are the first in sociology to include a full chapter on social media, and this timely chapter has been heavily updated to reflect the large and growing body of research focusing on the effects of social media on individuals, relationships, and society as a whole.

**Updated! Power of Society figures.** If you could teach your students only one thing in the introductory course, what would it be? Most instructors would probably answer, “To understand the power of society to shape people's lives.” Each chapter in this title begins with a Power of Society figure that does exactly that—encouraging students to give up some of the common conviction that life is a matter of personal choice by presenting evidence of how society shapes our major life experiences. Examples include how race and schooling guide marriage choices or how class position influences life expectancy. All of these figures have been updated for this revision.

**Updated! Photography and fine art.** The rich program of images in this title is continuously updated to better reflect current popular culture and the diversity of our society. Paging through Chapter 1, for example, reveals that the images are timely and a majority include women and people of color.

**Updated! Primary source readings.** Each chapter includes access to primary-source readings by notable sociologists that invite students to engage with researchers and analysts.

**Fully involved author!** John Macionis is the only author who does it all, creating all the content and writing all the assessment questions and supplemental material, including

the Instructor’s Resource Manual. If you use one of the Revel digital titles, John would be honored to join you online for a class meeting.

## New and Updated Content by Chapter

### Chapter 1: Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method

The updated Power of Society figure shows how race, schooling, and age guide people’s selection of marriage partners. Pairs of interactive maps invite exploration of the link between women’s fertility and a nation’s level of economic development, and also between suicide rates and population density, just as Durkheim suggested. The profile of the world’s low-, middle-, and high-income nations is updated. A new discussion shows how race, ethnicity, and gender shape professional baseball. The new discussion of COVID-19 includes how the decline in college enrollment during the pandemic was four times greater at schools enrolling low-income students than those enrolling affluent students.

The discussion of sociological research has a major focus on the power of race. Another pair of interactive maps links return rates in the 2020 census to average household income. A new discussion integrates the sociological perspective, sociological theory, sociological research, and political analysis.

The revised chapter is supported by 25 new research references.

From the new chapter:

“Learning to use the sociological perspective, to engage in theoretical analysis, as well as becoming familiar with political analysis, will provide a suite of powerful skills that enhance understanding and encourage active citizenship.”

“Today, we can extend the concept of gender blindness to include what we might call hetero-blindness as well. As an example, researchers studying marriage would consider only heterosexual couples, ignoring the lives of same-sex couples and transgender couples.”

### Chapter 2: Culture

Revel’s predictive graphing invites students to explore attitudes toward abortion in various nations in the world. A pair of interactive global maps asks students to discover the link between the share of foreign-born people and a nation’s level of economic development. Updated content begins with the steady loss of global languages; the share of the world’s population speaking Chinese, English, or Spanish as a first or second language; the share of foreign-born people in nations around the world; the share of people speaking a language other than English at home in counties across the United States; and the increasing importance of making money among young people today compared to those who came of age in the 1960s.

A new section discusses change in cultural values from an emphasis on individualism to a focus on equity for all categories of the population. Theoretical analysis of culture now includes critical race theory.

Twenty-two new research references support the revision of this chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“Culture is our link to the past, how we make sense of the present, and our guide to the future.”

“In recent decades, a counterpoint, a competing cultural narrative has emerged in U.S. culture. This version emphasizes not a competitive, individualistic culture, but a hierarchy in which major categories of the population—defined by race, class, and gender—are sharply unequal. According to this vision of our society—which might be called the *categorical cultural narrative* or the *group-identity narrative*, the goal of society should not be providing *individuals* with equal opportunity but ensuring that all *categories of people* have ‘equity,’ or parity, in terms of social standing.”

### Chapter 3: Socialization

The updated Power of Society figure links level of schooling to time spent viewing television. The activism of Rosa Parks is used to illustrate Kohlberg’s levels of moral development. The pandemic is discussed in relation to increased television watching and greater use of social media. A new discussion explores how socialization is shaped by greater political polarization in the United States.

A pair of Revel interactive maps invites students to explore the link between the multiracial share of the population and a second demographic variable—share of population over age sixty-five. Another pair of interactive global maps invites students to discover the link between the extent of child labor and a nation’s level of economic development. A pair of interactive national maps allows students to investigate the location of counties with the greatest share of multiracial people and contrast that pattern to the distribution of counties with the largest share of people over the age of sixty-five.

Twenty-nine new research citations support the changes made in this revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“Without denying the importance of nature, then, we can correctly say that nurture matters more in shaping human behavior. In short, as human beings, *nurture is our nature.*”

“A dog responds to *what you do*; a human responds to *what you have in mind* as you do it. You can train a dog to go to the hallway and bring back an umbrella, which is a handy trick on a rainy day. But because the dog doesn’t understand intention, if the dog cannot find the umbrella, a canine is incapable of the *human* response: to look for a raincoat instead.”

#### Chapter 4: Social Interaction in Everyday Life

Revel's interactive Power of Society figure allows students to see how age affects the extent of social networking. A pair of interactive, global maps invites students to explore the link between the share of housework performed by women and nations' level of economic development.

COVID-19 infection is used as an example of a master status. There is an updated and expanded discussion of humor, which includes a new section titled "Humor: Funny, Sick, or Offensive?" exploring the challenge of using humor in an age of cancel culture.

Eleven new research citations inform this revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

"Typically, the English language treats whatever has greater value, force, or significance as masculine. For instance, the word *virtuous*, meaning 'morally worthy' or 'excellent,' comes from the Latin word *vir*, meaning 'man.' On the other hand, the adjective *hysterical*, meaning 'emotionally out of control,' comes from the Greek word *hystera*, meaning 'uterus.'"

"Humor is all about pushing beyond cultural boundaries. For this reason, as we take lightly conventions that guide everyday life, humor becomes a subversive act. The Greek roots of the word 'comedy' (*komas* and *oide*) mean 'song of the rebel.' Because jokes involve breaking the rules by presenting unconventional realities, humor often walks a fine line between what is funny and what someone may deem to be sick or offensive."

#### Chapter 5: Mass Media and Social Media

Revel's interactive Power of Society figure shows how gender shapes our use of Pinterest and other social media sites. A pair of global maps invites students to explore the link between level of internet access and nations' level of economic development.

There is updated and expanded discussion of media bias and how media promote political polarization. There are new data and expanded discussion of gender and film, including the share of 2021 films passing the Bechdel gender test. Two important and entirely new sections have been added: "Social Media, Anxiety, and Depression" and "The Politics of Social Media."

In a chapter dealing with this rapidly changing topic, sixty new references have been used in this revision, with three-fourths of all chapter references now dated 2020, 2021, or 2022.

From the revised chapter:

"There are almost 15 billion smartphones in the world—about twice the number of people on the planet."

"The typical person in the United States spends more waking time looking at screens than any other activity, including sleeping."

"At the present rate, for a typical member of our society, half a lifetime will be spent looking at screens."

#### Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations

The updated Power of Society figure shows that, the higher people's social standing, the greater their opportunity to join professional associations. There is expanded analysis of how race, class, gender, and nonbinary identity affect group dynamics, and also new content on how organizations respond to the challenge of inclusion.

A new discussion explains how the pandemic weakened social groups and altered organizational operation. The discussion of groupthink has been updated to include the effects of "cancel culture." Examples of organization behavior have been updated with discussion of the Amazon corporation.

Forty-seven new research citations support the revision of this chapter.

From the revised chapter:

"In a secondary relationship, therefore, we ask the question 'How are you?' without expecting a truthful answer."

"If two members of a triad were to develop a romantic interest in each other, they would come to understand the meaning of the old saying, 'Two's company, three's a crowd.'"

"The EZPass in your car is a wonderful convenience. Once again, however, this device creates an electronic record of when and where you travel."

#### Chapter 7: Sexuality and Society

A new chapter-opening story questions common assumptions about sexual orientation. Revel's interactive Power of Society figure tracks the steady increase in support for same-sex marriage leading to legalization in 2015. Completing the predictive graphing component of this exercise, students may be surprised to learn that public support for same-sex marriage was small as recently as thirty years ago.

The discussion of transgender and cisgender identity has been updated and expanded and now includes the latest on laws affecting the LGBTQ community. There is a new discussion of the controversy over transgender women participating in women's sports. Revel's pair of interactive national maps invites students to discover the link between states banning transgender women from women's sports and how the states voted in the 2020 election. Another pair of interactive global maps invites students to analyze the link between access to contraception and a nation's level of economic development.

There are updates on the extent of premarital sex, extramarital sex, the number of lifetime opposite-sex partners for women and men in the United States, the share of older people who are sexually active, and the extent of contraceptive use in nations around the world. There are



also new data on the number of LGBTQ people in the U.S. population. The latest research by geneticists helps explain the complex origins of sexual orientation, and the chapter tracks increasing legal challenges—including the recent decision by the Supreme Court—to abortion access. A new section presents political analysis of sexuality.

Sixty-three new research citations inform this revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“The pursuit of social equality often involves bathrooms or, more precisely, who is permitted to use which ones. For decades, for example, Black people were forbidden from using bathrooms reserved for White people. Similarly, it was not many years ago that the federal government provided women serving in Congress with a bathroom reserved for ‘ladies.’ Today, the issue revolves around gender—or, more specifically, the right of people to decide sexual identity for themselves and use a restroom of their choice.”

“In 2017, California became the first state to allow a third gender category (F, M, or X) and half the states now allow people to request amending their birth certificate in this way.”

“People who identify as pansexual may experience changing patterns of attraction over time. Clearly, there is overlap between bisexuality and pansexuality. Such cases point out that we should not infer a person’s sexual orientation based on someone’s current romantic partner.”

“In global perspective, just fifty-six of the world’s (195) nations permit a woman to obtain an abortion on request (that is, for any reason).”

## **Chapter 8: Deviance**

The updated Power of Society figure reveals racial bias in our society’s application of drug laws. Revel interactives include a pair of global maps inviting students to explore the link between use of the death penalty and nations’ level of economic development.

The pandemic is considered in discussions of the decreasing size of the U.S. prison population and the nation’s increasing crime rate. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is used to illustrate how deviance brings the global community together. There are updates concerning drug laws, the increase in crime including all new crime statistics (through 2021), the police policy of de-escalation, and the nation’s increasing level of gun violence. There is updated and expanded discussion of white collar and corporate crime.

A major, new section explains how understanding crime varies according to position on the political spectrum.

Seventy new research citations inform this revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“Recently, the owners of Purdue Pharma, maker of OxyContin, settled charges of contributing to the overdose

deaths of hundreds of thousands of people by paying a fine and having the company (not the leadership) plead guilty to three felony charges. As a result, not one of the owners or top executives of the corporation spent a single day in jail.”

“Almost everyone carries a certain level of conscious and unconscious prejudice. Perceptions related to both class and race affect how we respond to others, including the way employers evaluate candidates for jobs, how teachers punish students who misbehave in school, and how police engage with citizens on the streets.”

## **Chapter 9: Social Stratification**

Revel’s interactive Power of Society figure shows how various categories of people have very different risks of experiencing poverty; the predictive graphing exercise allows students to compare their assessment of those odds to results of sociological research. Revel’s interactive global maps reveal the level of economic inequality in nations around the world in relation to nations’ levels of economic development, inviting students to explore the link between these two variables. A national map identifies high-poverty counties across the United States, and a companion map presents median income for the all counties, inviting students to investigate their own local communities and assess the relationship between these two variables.

The experience of the pandemic is discussed in relation to class position, and new discussion also reports the finding linking greater economic inequality to more serious pandemic outcomes.

There are updates on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the wealthiest people in the world, recent pay levels for U.S. corporate CEOs, and Ketanji Brown Jackson’s appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The revised chapter has the latest data on inequality of income and wealth, profiling the economic resources of people at all levels of our society as well as patterns of social mobility. There are updates on occupational prestige, levels of educational achievement, and economic resources by race, ethnicity, and gender. The richest person in the United States is identified (it’s not Jeff Bezos), and new analysis shows what share of the richest people earned or inherited their wealth. There is new and expanded discussion assessing the reality of the American dream. Analysis of poverty in the United States offers the latest statistics and an updated, interactive national map. Data on homelessness are now the latest available. A new major section provides political analysis of social inequality in the United States.

Forty new research citations inform this revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“The top 1 percent of families have as much wealth as the entire U.S. middle class.”

“Inequality in income makes a real difference in people’s lives: 72 percent of non-Hispanic White families own their homes compared to 42 percent of Black families.”

“During the pandemic, researchers found, middle-class people were two to three times more likely than upper-middle and upper-class people to end up being hospitalized.”

### Chapter 10: Global Stratification

The updated Power of Society figure presents dramatic differences in survival rates for those born in low- and high-income nations; Revel’s predictive graphing exercise allows students to assess the link between wealth and health and compare their results to research findings. In Revel, a pair of interactive global maps shows the level of economic development for all nations and the survival rate of the population to age sixty-five; comparison invites students to discover the link between these two variables. There is an updated list of the world’s richest people, revealing that the four richest Americans each have wealth equaling the total economic output of half the world’s countries.

All data on the distribution of global income and wealth, child poverty, quality of life, and global slavery are the latest available. New discussions include the effects of the pandemic on global poverty. There is also new political analysis of global stratification.

Twenty-three new research citations support this revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“Four of the world’s top five richest people—Elon Musk (Tesla), Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Bill Gates (a Microsoft founder), and Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook)—live in the United States, and *each* of these men is worth more than \$100 billion, an amount that roughly equals the combined economic output of half the world’s *countries*.”

“Of all enslaved people, 71 percent (29 million) are women and girls.”

### Chapter 11: Gender Stratification

The updated Power of Society figure provides a fresh look at how gender shapes the way people prioritize work and family life. A pair of Revel interactive maps contrasts women’s social standing compared to that of men and also shows nations’ level of economic development, which invites students to assess the link between these two variables. A pair of interactive national maps invites students to discover the link between the practice of female genital mutilation and nations’ level of economic development.

The pandemic is discussed in relation to unemployment and gender-related violence. The listing of historic “firsts” for women now includes the ascension of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court. Revision updates include the latest data on unemployment; the pay disparity

for women and men starring in film; how gender interacts with work, pay, and housework; and how gender shapes education and the U.S. military. A new discussion provides political analysis of gender stratification from different positions on the political spectrum.

Thirty-four new research citations inform this revised chapter.

From the revised chapters:

“According to the United Nations’ Gender Inequality Index, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden provide women with the highest social standing relative to that of men; by contrast, women in Chad, Papua New Guinea, and Yemen have the lowest social standing compared with men. Of the world’s 195 nations, the United Nations ranks the United States forty-seventh in terms of gender equality.”

“Just thirty (or 6 percent) of the S&P 500 companies in the United States have a woman as their chief executive officer (CEO), and just 38 percent of the seats on corporate boards of directors are held by women.”

“High-tech companies are cutting edge, right? Therefore, we would expect them to lead the way in terms of gender equality. Such is not the case, however. Generally speaking, less than one-third of the people working at companies including Google, Microsoft, and Facebook are women.”

### Chapter 12: Race and Ethnicity

Revel offers a pair of interactive national maps that identifies counties where minority categories make up most of the population, and a companion map that invites students to explore the link between this variable and level of income.

The pandemic is included in discussions of economic insecurity for minority populations and also the increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. This revised chapter focuses on the centrality of race and ethnicity to social stratification in the United States. There is expanded attention to police violence against Black people, new discussion of how race and ethnicity shaped the results of the 2020 elections, and an update on the passage of the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act of 2022. New discussions include critical race theory, how U.S. families and individuals are becoming more blended in terms of race and ethnicity, how the major political parties discuss racial and ethnic stratification, and the extent of support from voters in various racial and ethnic categories for the major political parties.

The latest available data are used in discussion of the size and social standing of all racial and ethnic categories of the U.S. population. Thirty-six new research citations inform this revised chapter, and a majority of all citations are now from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

From the revised chapter:

“Race may be real, but it is not based on genes.”

“Yes, the country is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. But so are U.S. *families*. And the share of *people*

who are multiracial is also rapidly increasing. Rather than sharpening the lines that divide this nation, increasing diversity is likely to blur them.”

“If only minority categories of the U.S. population had voted, the 2020 presidential election would have been a Democratic landslide; if only White people had voted, it would have been a Republican landslide.”

### Chapter 13: Economics and Politics

Revel’s interactive Power of Society figure shows how race and ethnicity shape the types of jobs people have. A pair of interactive global maps invites students to see how economic development changes the type of work people do. Another pair of global maps indicates the level of political freedom for nations around the world and invites students to discover the link between political freedoms and level of economic development. A pair of national maps identifies states that have enacted “right to work” laws and allows students to discover how those states voted in the 2020 presidential election.

The pandemic is discussed in ten different places in this chapter. There is increased attention to emerging mega-businesses, including Amazon, Tesla, Uber, and Lyft, and expanded discussion of artificial intelligence in the workplace. Updates include the latest data on unemployment, a recent surge in the strength of labor unions, the increasing share of small businesses owned by women, political party identification, soaring levels of spending in political campaigns, and the extent of war and terrorism in the world.

There is new discussion of the causes and consequences of increasing political polarization in the United States, the war in Ukraine, and the public’s view that free speech is in decline. Finally, a new discussion offers political analysis of economic systems and the extent of public support for socialism and capitalism. All data involving work and voting are the latest available.

Eighty-five new research references support the heavily revised chapter, with more than three-fourths of all references from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

From the revised chapter:

“President Biden’s entire cabinet—including 17 people—has a net worth of about \$118 million. This total is more than fifty times the net worth of the same number of average people in the United States. In the world of politics, then, ‘money talks,’ and our political leaders are not exactly ‘average Joes.’ However, if we compare the Biden cabinet to the cabinet led by former president Donald Trump—which had total wealth of about \$6.2 billion (or even the Obama cabinet’s total of \$2.8 billion), the Biden cabinet seems to be a bit more ‘average’ after all.”

“Charismatic leaders have surfaced throughout history, using their personal skills to turn an audience into

followers. Without relying on tradition or established law, they often make their own rules and challenge the status quo, transforming the society around them. This fact also explains why charismatics are highly controversial and why few of them die of old age.”

“Higher-income people tend to lean right on the political spectrum because larger government means higher taxes, which largely fall on them. But the link between income and political party is a bit more complex: Most people with *very* high income (think Hollywood celebrities and those at the top of high-technology corporations) are Democrats. A *Forbes* study found that a large majority of the richest 400 people in the country are Democrats.”

### Chapter 14: Family and Religion

A new Power of Society figure illustrates the decline over four generations in the share of young people living in families. A pair of Revel interactive global maps invites students to discover how legal same-sex marriage is linked to nations’ level of economic development. A pair of national maps links divorce rates and degree of religiosity; a second pair of national maps invites students to assess the link between religiosity and age.

The pandemic is included in discussion of child care, the recent decline in rates of marriage and divorce, and the increasing share of people working at home. There is expanded coverage of multiethnic and multiracial marriage. All family patterns are presented with attention to race, ethnicity, class, and gender. New data are provided for the share of people who marry, divorce, or live alone, and for the share of young adults living at home with parents. A new discussion includes analysis of how political attitudes shape people’s views of family,

The second half of the chapter provides a survey of concepts and research dealing with religion and society. One important focus is how religious patterns vary by racial and ethnic category, age, gender, and class. There is expanded discussion of secularization, a trend especially evident among younger adults. The latest data are provided for all family patterns and measures of religious affiliation and religiosity.

Forty-five new research references support the revised chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“In 2020, for the first time since the Great Depression in the 1930s, a slight majority of young adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty-nine were living with one or both parents.”

“The line between family life and working life is likely to become weaker. The pandemic resulted in millions of people working from home. There is increasing evidence that many of these workers are unlikely to return to the office.”

“Among millennials (people between 27 and 41 years of age in 2023), almost 40 percent claim no religious affiliation, which is the same as the share identifying as Christian.”

“The share of people who identify with Christianity continues to decline. The loss of membership is most pronounced for established, mainline churches, including Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Catholics. The decline in membership among more conservative religious organizations, including the Mormons, Seventh-Day Adventists, and Christian sects, has been less pronounced. Overall, the U.S. population is becoming less religious; among those who remain religious, however, a larger share is affiliated with conservative organizations generally characterized as ‘fundamentalist.’ In short, the U.S. population is becoming less religious but also more intensely religious at the same time.”

### Chapter 15: Education, Health, and Medicine

The updated Power of Society figure shows the strong correlation between race and ethnicity and the share of young people enrolled in college. Other updated Revel interactives include a pair of global maps showing levels of illiteracy for countries around the world and inviting students to discover the link between illiteracy and nations’ level of economic development. A pair of national maps invites students to explore the link between teachers’ average salaries for each state and how each state voted in the 2020 presidential election. A final pair of interactive national maps illustrates the dramatic increase in obesity in the United States between 1996 and 2020.

The pandemic is discussed throughout this chapter with regard to the closing of schools and consequences for students, the teacher shortage, a dramatic increase in home schooling, inequality in schooling, a decline in college enrollment, an increase in online learning, an increase in smoking, and intensification of the nursing shortage. New discussions include sections on COVID-19, student loan debt, school shootings, political analysis of the U.S. educational system, and also political analysis of health care in the United States, including public support for government-based health care. All educational and health statistics are now the latest available.

Fifty-nine new research references support the revision of this chapter.

From the revised chapter:

“The pandemic has challenged our schools, forcing closures, subjecting employees to health risks, and requiring teachers to develop new distance learning programs almost overnight. For teachers, the times have been stressful. In a 2021 survey, 48 percent of teachers reported considering changing jobs in the past month.”

“In the last thirty years, the share of Americans who are clinically obese increased from 22 percent to 42 percent . . .”

“Doctors call it ‘coronary-prone behavior.’ Psychologists call it the ‘Type A personality.’ Sociologists recognize it as our culture’s concept of masculinity.”

### Chapter 16: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

The updated Power of Society figure shows that the level of public concern about climate change varies from nation to nation around the world. Other Revel interactives include a pair of global maps showing rates of population increase for all nations; the companion map invites students to discover how population increase is linked to nations’ level of economic development. A pair of interactive national maps shows population change between 2010 and 2020 for all counties in the United States; the companion map, showing the share of people over the age of sixty-five, invites students to see how the two variables are related.

The pandemic is discussed in relation to various demographic changes, including fertility, mortality, and life expectancy. All demographic data are the latest available. There is updated discussion of climate change policy under the Biden administration. The revision has the latest data showing that people of color are a majority of the population in 65 of the nation’s 100 largest cities. Analysis of demographic change to rural areas in the United States has been expanded and updated.

There is a new discussion of how politics shapes people’s understanding of environmental issues and their solution. All the data on population, urbanization, and environmental issues are the latest available.

Twenty-seven new research citations inform this revised chapter. Two-thirds of all references are dated 2020, 2021, or 2022.

From the revised chapter:

“Remember that differences exist among various categories of people. For example, Black people, with nearly three times the burden of poverty as White people, have an infant mortality rate of 11.1—more than twice the White rate of 4.4.”

“Life expectancy in North America remains high compared to low-income regions of the world. However, for the first time in many decades, life expectancy in the United States declined from 76.1 years for males and 81.1 years for females in 2017. This decline reflects increasing obesity, the opioid epidemic, and the pandemic.”

“Despite the political division of the planet into nations, Earth is a single ecosystem composed of the interaction of all living organisms and their natural environment.”

“History has shown that women who are free to decide if, when, and where to marry; who bear children as a matter of choice; and who have access to education and to good jobs will limit their own fertility.”



“The term ‘ghetto’ (from the Italian *borghetto*, meaning ‘outside the city walls’) was first used in the early sixteenth century to describe the neighborhood in which the Jews of Venice were segregated.”

### Chapter 17: Social Change: Traditional, Modern, and Postmodern Societies

Revel’s interactive Power of Society figure illustrates how societies influence the choices of individuals, in this case to join a peaceful demonstration. Other Revel interactives include a pair of national maps that shows the degree of residential stability for counties across the United States with a companion map that invites students to discover how age figures into this pattern.

The pandemic is included in various chapter discussions and includes several likely long-term consequences of COVID-19. There are updates on the level of activism in various nations. New examples include the recent Supreme Court ruling on access to abortion, the killing of George Floyd, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the Uvalde, Texas, school massacre. All data are the latest available.

Fifteen new research references support the revised chapter, and half of all references are from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

From the revised chapter:

“Media images of George Floyd helped mobilize people to support efforts to reform the culture and practices of police departments. In the same way, images of the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, where nineteen young children and two teachers were murdered in the horrific shooting in 2022 served to motivate people to support greater regulation of gun ownership.”

“Politicians using social media can reach a vast audience before anyone has the opportunity to assess the accuracy and completeness of the message. Clearly, this is one way in which social media has encouraged greater use of spin.”

“Black journalist and activist Ida B. Wells documented how lynching became a tool in the service of white supremacy and, in the 1890s, she tirelessly campaigned against the practice.”

## Inspire Engagement Through Active Learning

Revel<sup>®</sup> improves results by empowering students to actively participate in learning. More than a digital textbook, Revel delivers an engaging blend of author content, media, and assessment.

With Revel, students read and practice in one continuous experience. Interactive content and assessments

integrated throughout the narrative provide opportunities for students to explore and apply concepts. And Revel is mobile and user-friendly, so students can learn on the go—anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Learn more about Revel: [www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/)

### Revel for *Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition*

*Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition* presents a major revision of the discipline’s leading text in an interactive learning program that is both powerful and enjoyable. As the fully involved author, John Macionis has been personally responsible for revising the content as well as writing the Test Bank and updating the Instructor’s Resource Manual. Now, convinced of the ability of computer technology to transform learning, *the author has taken personal responsibility for all the content of the interactive Revel learning program.* To ensure the highest level of quality, he has written a series of interactive Social Explorer map exercises, authored all the questions that assess student learning, and personally selected all the readings and short videos that are keyed to each chapter. The author has written all this content with two goals—to set the highest standard of quality for the entire learning program and also to ensure that all parts of this program are linked seamlessly and transparently. Even if you are familiar with previous editions of this title, please do your students the favor of reviewing all that is new with *Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition*.

Our outstanding learning program has been constructed with care and directed toward both high-quality content and easy and effective operation.

- Each major section of every chapter has a purpose, which is stated simply and clearly in the form of a **Learning Objective**. All the learning objectives are listed on the first screen of each chapter; they guide students through their reading of the chapter, and they appear again as the organizing structure of the **Making the Grade** summary at the chapter’s end. These learning objectives also involve a range of cognitive abilities. Some sections of the narrative focus on more basic cognitive skills—such as *remembering* the definitions of key concepts and *understanding* ideas to the point of being able to explain them in one’s own words—while others ask students to *compare* and *contrast* theories and *apply* them to specific topics. Questions throughout the narrative provide students with opportunities to engage in *discovery*, *analysis*, and *evaluation*. In addition, **Assessments** tied to primary chapter sections, as well as full chapter exams, allow instructors and students to track progress and get immediate feedback.

### Learning Objectives

- 6.1 Explain the importance of various types of groups to social life.
- 6.2 Describe the operation of large, formal organizations.
- 6.3 Summarize the changes to formal organizations over the course of the last century.

## Making the Grade

### Chapter 6 Groups and Organizations

#### Audio

Listen to the Audio



#### Social Groups

6.1 Explain the importance of various types of groups to social life.

**Social groups** are two or more people who identify with and interact with one another.

- A **primary group** is small, personal, and lasting (examples include family and close friends).
- A **secondary group** is large, impersonal and goal-oriented, and often of shorter duration (examples include a college class or a corporation).

Elements of Group Dynamics

#### Group Leadership

- **Instrumental leadership** focuses on completing tasks.

### Current Events Bulletin

#### Constructing Reality: The Words We Use Make a Difference

Spring 2022

As this chapter explains, symbolic interaction—using symbols as we engage others—creates the reality we experience. Among the most important symbols is language.

As we change the meaning of words, we change this reality. Not many people may have noticed a recent change in the Merriam Webster dictionary: The dictionary now considers as correct the use of the pronouns “they,” “them,” and “themselves” to refer to individuals who do not identify themselves in terms of gender. In the past, these pronouns were used as plural pronouns, alongside the singular pronouns “her” and “herself” and “him” and “himself.” The dictionary also reported that the most looked-up word in recent years is—wait for it—“they.”

Changing words changes our reality, just as social change transforms our language. Today, language is evolving as part of the movement to recognize that many people do not wish to identify themselves using the binary categories of “female” and “male.”

Social Explorer

- **Interactive map feature** Social Explorer technology that allows for real-time data updates and rollover information to support the data and show movement over time.

### EOC Q7.4

3 tries left

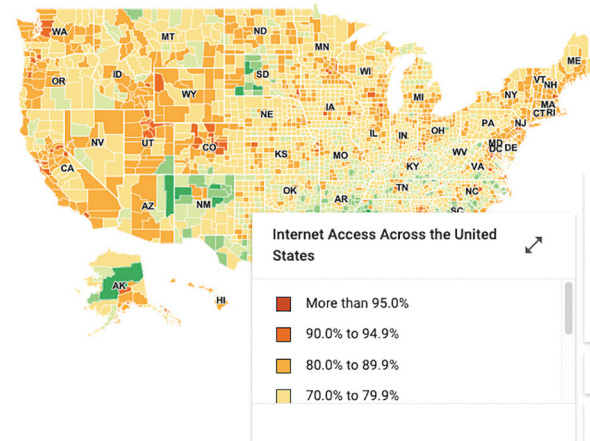
The claim made by Marshall McLuhan is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- “media is simply a process that has nothing to do with the information they transmit”
- “the medium is the message” because inevitably it shapes what it transmits
- “there can be no objective truth”
- “media is always in the middle”

Submit

### National Map 8-1

#### The Internet as a Vast Social Network



- The **Current Events Bulletin** is a feature showcasing author-written articles, updated or replaced twice each year, that provide breaking news that illustrates disciplinary material. These trends and events will be familiar to students, drawing them into the chapter content. Current events bulletins can also be easily accessed from the Resources folder within Revel.

We also strive to get students writing.

- First, students will encounter **Journal Prompts** in various places within each chapter, where they are encouraged to write a response to a short-answer question applying what they have just learned.

Journal: Personalizing Race and Ethnicity

At what age did you become aware of the social importance of race and ethnicity? Did any one event trigger this awareness? Describe how your own racial and ethnic identity shaped your life experiences.

The response entered here will appear in the performance dashboard and can be viewed by your instructor.

Submit

- A shared discussion question at the end of each chapter asks students to respond to a question and see responses from their peers on the same question. These discussions—which include moderation tools that must first be enabled by the instructor—offer students an opportunity to interact with each other in the context of their reading.

Worth 20 Points

Explain how the state of the natural environment reflects culture and the organization of society. Draw on ideas and facts from the chapter in support of your argument.

A minimum number of characters is required to post and earn points. After posting, your response can be viewed by your class and instructor, and you can participate in the class discussion.

Post

0 characters | 140 minimum

- Finally, the author also wrote a more comprehensive **Seeing Sociology in Your Everyday Life** photo essay, which serves as the inspiration for a Writing Assignment activity in Revel. These activities show the “everyday life” relevance of sociology by explaining how the material in the chapter can empower students in their personal and professional lives.
- **Writing Applications** are the best way to develop and assess concept mastery and critical thinking through writing. Writing Applications provide a single place within Revel to create, track, and grade writing assignments; access writing resources; and exchange meaningful, personalized feedback quickly and easily to improve results. For students, Writing Applications provide everything they need to keep up with writing assignments, access assignment guides and checklists, write or upload completed assignments, and receive grades and feedback—all in one convenient place. For educators, Writing Applications make assigning, receiving, and evaluating writing assignments easier. It’s simple to create new assignments and upload relevant materials, monitor student progress, and receive alerts when students submit work. Writing Applications make students’ work more focused and effective, with customized grading rubrics they can see along with

personalized feedback. Writing Applications can also check students’ work for improper citation or plagiarism by comparing it against the world’s most accurate text comparison database available from Turnitin.

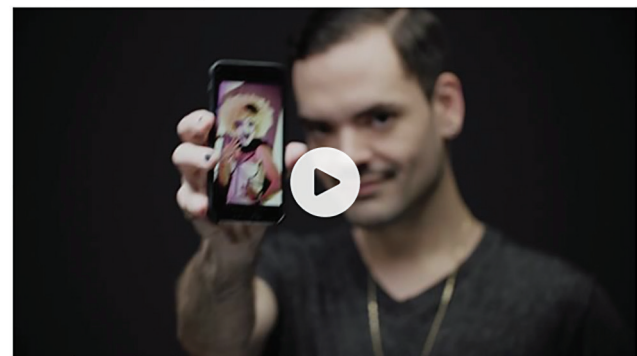
Finally, another key part of the Revel content is our video program.

- The *Pearson Original* docuseries and explainer videos highlight stories that exemplify and humanize the concepts covered in Sociology courses. These videos illustrate a variety of social issues and current events, bringing key topics to life for students while creating opportunities to further develop their understanding of sociology. Therefore, students not only connect with the people and stories on a personal level but also view these stories and individuals with greater empathy, all while contextualizing core course concepts.

These videos are incorporated into the chapters and can also be easily accessed from the Resources folder within Revel.

#### Watch

Sexuality and Gender Categories: Breaking out of the Box



## Supplements for the Instructor

Supplements are available to adopters at the Instructor’s Resource Center at [www.pearsonhighered.com/irc](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/irc) and also within the Resources folder within the Revel product.

### INSTRUCTOR’S RESOURCE MANUAL WITH TEST BANK

This learning program offers an Instructor’s Resource Manual that will be of interest even to those who have never chosen to use one before. Revised by John Macionis, it goes well beyond the expected detailed chapter outlines and discussion questions to provide summaries of important current events and trends, recent articles that are relevant to classroom discussions, suggestions for classroom activities, and supplemental lecture material for every chapter of the text. This edition of the Instructor’s Resource Manual contains a listing of the Revel-specific media and interactive assets, including the Journal Prompts and Shared Writing Prompts, photo galleries, graphics, maps, and documents.

The Revel Media section also includes the videos featured in each chapter of Revel, including many high-interest videos.

The Test Bank—again, written by the author—reflects the material in the text, both in content and in language, far better than the testing file available with any other introductory sociology textbook. The file contains more than 100 items per chapter—in multiple-choice, true/false, and essay formats. For all of the questions, the correct answer is provided, as well as the Bloom’s level of cognitive reasoning the question requires of the student, the learning objective that the question tests, and the difficulty level. In addition, Sample Test Questions are posted along with these files so students can test their knowledge even further if they wish.

**MYTEST** This online, computerized software allows instructors to create their own personalized exams, to edit any or all of the existing test questions, and to add new questions. Other special features of this program include random generation of test questions, creation of alternative versions of the same test, scrambling question sequence, and test preview before printing.

**POWERPOINT® SLIDES** In order to support varied teaching styles and to easily incorporate dynamic Revel features in class, PowerPoint presentations are available for this edition.

These presentations are available to adopters in electronic formats at the Instructor’s Resource Center ([www.pearsonhighered.com/irc](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/irc)) or in the Resources folder within the Revel product.

## A Note from the Author

This title has been revised to describe the social diversity of the United States and the world. This promise carries with it the responsibility to use language thoughtfully and respectfully. For this revision of *Society: The Basics*, the editorial staff and I have thoroughly reviewed each chapter to ensure that best practices are reflected in language and in use of images.

Speaking personally, this review process has made me keenly aware of the many ways we use language that can have consequences we do not intend. For example, in past editions, I used a descriptive phrase such as “who were slaves” with the intention of describing an historical truth. Deeper reflection, however, led me to change such a construction to “enslaved people.” The difference, of course, is that no person is inherently a slave; that is not the human condition. Slavery is a deeply evil societal practice that some people inflict on other people against their will.

All of us, as writers and speakers, have a responsibility to refresh our words in ways that that are not only more

respectful, but also better reflect the world we describe. I hope that, in some small manner, the changes to language found in this title will encourage others to pursue the same self-criticism from which I have benefitted.

## In Appreciation

The conventional practice of crediting a book to a single author hides the efforts of dozens of women and men who have helped create *Society: The Basics, Sixteenth Edition*. I offer my deep and sincere thanks to the Pearson editorial team for their steady enthusiasm in the pursuit of both innovation and excellence.

Day-to-day work on the content is shared by my colleague, Kelly Eitzen Smith, Ph.D., who works closely with me to ensure that all the data in this revision are the very latest available. Kelly brings enthusiasm that matches her considerable talents. I am grateful for both.

I want to thank Holly Shufeldt, senior analyst, content strategy, and all the members of the Pearson sales staff, the men and women who have represented this title with confidence and enthusiasm over the years. My hat goes off especially to Rachele Strober, who is responsible for our marketing campaign.

Thanks, also, to Barbara Cappuccio, Amit Verma and to Denise Forlow for managing the design and the production process. Leza Young did a wonderful job of copyediting the manuscript.

It goes without saying that every colleague knows more about a number of topics covered in this book than the author does. For that reason, I am grateful to the hundreds of faculty members and the many students who have written to me to offer comments and suggestions. Thank you, one and all, for sharing your wisdom and making a difference! Please stay in touch by contacting me at [macionis@kenyon.edu](mailto:macionis@kenyon.edu).

Finally, I dedicate this sixteenth edition of *Society: The Basics* to Pamela Gail Siddall, a talented artist and deeply kind and compassionate human being. For the last three years, Pamela has shared my life and, at the end of 2021, we exchanged vows of marriage. It’s not the first rodeo for me, of course, but I know in my heart that it is the last. Thank you, Pamela, for inspiring me in many ways that make me a better human being.

With best wishes to my colleagues and with love to all and in pursuit of peace,



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# About the Author

**John J. Macionis** (pronounced “ma-SHOWnis”) has been writing about sociology and engaged in classroom teaching for fifty years. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, John earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, majoring in sociology, and then completed a doctorate in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

His publications are wide-ranging, focusing on community life in the United States, interpersonal intimacy in families, effective teaching, humor, new information technology, and the importance of global education. In addition to authoring this best-seller, Macionis has also written *Sociology*, the most popular full-length text in the field, now available in its eighteenth edition. He collaborates on international editions of the titles: *Sociology: Canadian Edition*; *Society: The Basics, Canadian Edition*; and *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, which is available in Europe. *Sociology* is also available for high school students and in a number of foreign-language editions. All the Macionis titles are available as low-cost Revel editions that offer an interactive, digital learning experience and give students the option of adding a print version. Students can also rent print versions of all U.S. titles.

In addition, Macionis edited the best-selling anthology *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, which is also available in a Canadian edition. Macionis and Vincent Parrillo wrote the leading urban studies title *Cities and Urban Life*, soon available in an eighth edition. Macionis is also the author of *Social Problems*, now in its eighth edition and the leading title in this field.

The latest on all the Macionis titles, as well as teaching materials and dozens of internet links of interest to students and faculty in sociology, are found at the author’s personal website: [www.macionis.com](http://www.macionis.com) or [www.TheSociologyPage.com](http://www.TheSociologyPage.com). Follow John on this Facebook author page: John J. Macionis. Additional information and instructor resources are found at the Pearson site: [www.pearsonhighered.com](http://www.pearsonhighered.com).

Macionis stands alone in the field for taking personal responsibility for writing all print and electronic content, just as he authors all the supplemental material. He proudly resists the trend toward “outsourcing” such material to nonsociologists.

John Macionis is now retired from full-time teaching at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he was Professor and Distinguished Scholar of Sociology. During that time, he chaired the Sociology Department, directed the college’s multidisciplinary program in humane studies, presided over the campus senate and the college’s faculty, and taught sociology to thousands of students.



In 2002, the American Sociological Association presented Macionis with the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching, citing his innovative use of global material as well as the introduction of new teaching technology in his titles.

Professor Macionis has been active in academic programs in other countries, having traveled to some fifty nations. He writes, “I am an ambitious traveler, eager to learn and, through the texts, to share much of what I discover with students, many of whom know little about the rest of the world. For me, traveling and writing are all dimensions of teaching. First and foremost, I am a teacher—a passion for teaching animates everything I do.”

At Kenyon, Macionis taught a number of courses, but his favorite classes have always been Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems. He continues to enjoy extensive contact with students across the United States and around the world.

John lives in Vero Beach, Florida, where he enjoys tennis, swimming, and playing oldies rock-and-roll. He is an environmental activist in the Lake George region of New York’s Adirondack Mountains, where he spends the summer and works with a number of organizations, including the Lake George Land Conservancy, where he is past-president of the board of trustees, and Fort Ticonderoga, a leading organization in the teaching of U.S. history, where he is vice-chair of the board of trustees.

Professor Macionis welcomes (and responds to) comments and suggestions about this book from faculty and students. Contact him at his Facebook page (John J. Macionis) or e-mail: [macionis@kenyon.edu](mailto:macionis@kenyon.edu).