



Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| ✧ Preface | ix |
| CHAPTER ONE | |
| ✧ The Understanding of Society | 1 |
| The Structure of Sociological Theory, 3 | |
| Theory and Understanding: The Examples of Formal Education and the Role of Women in Contemporary Society, 14 | |
| CHAPTER TWO | |
| ✧ Functionalism | 16 |
| Introduction, 17 | |
| Intellectual Roots: The Influence of Emile Durkheim, 19 | |
| PART ONE: Talcott Parsons: Grand Theory, 26 | |
| Background, 26 | |
| Parsons' System Levels, 28 | |
| Parsons' Theory of Action, 30 | |
| The Pattern Variables, 31 | |

The Functional System Problems—AGIL, 37
Social Change, 46

PART TWO: Robert K. Merton:

Middle-Range Theory, 54

Background, 54

Theories of the Middle Range, 55

Clarifying Functional Analysis, 56

Merton's Theory of Deviance, 64

The Role Set, 66

PART THREE: Neofunctionalism, 68

Conclusion, 73

CHAPTER THREE

✧ **Conflict Theory**

75

Introduction: The Two Traditions, 76

Intellectual Roots, 78

**PART ONE: Conflict Theory and the Critique
of Society, 88**

Marxist and Neo-Marxist Sociology, 90

Critical Theory: The Frankfurt School
and Jürgen Habermas, 111

C. Wright Mills, 129

Pierre Bourdieu, 134

**PART TWO: Conflict Theory and Analytic
Sociology: The Legacy of Max Weber, 142**

Ralf Dahrendorf, 143

Lewis Coser, 153

Randall Collins, 161

Conclusion, 179

CHAPTER FOUR

✧ **Symbolic Interactionism**

181

Introduction, 182

Intellectual Roots: The Influence of Max Weber
and Georg Simmel, 183

PART ONE: George Herbert Mead: The Self, 188
The Self, 188

Self-Interaction, 191

The Development of the Self, 193

Symbolic Meaning, 195

PART TWO: Herbert Blumer: Interpretation
and Methodology, 197

Interpretation, 198

The Three Basic Premises, 200

Structure and Process, 204

Methodology, 209

PART THREE: Erving Goffman: Dramaturgy
and the Interaction Order, 218

Background, 218

Dramaturgy and Everyday Life, 221

The Interaction Order, 226

PART FOUR: Arlie Russell Hochschild and Patricia Hill Collins:
Expanding the Horizons of Symbolic Interactionism, 229

Background, 229

Arlie Russell Hochschild: Emotional Labor, 231

Other Contributions to Sociology of Emotions, 233

Patricia Hill Collins: Black Feminist Thought, 235

Conclusion, 238

CHAPTER FIVE

✦ Phenomenology 240

Introduction, 241

Intellectual Roots: The Influence of Edmund Husserl
and Alfred Schutz, 242

PART ONE: Harold Garfinkel: The Founder
of Ethnomethodology, 244

Background, 245

Ethnomethodology Defined, 246

Accounting, 250

Doing Ethnomethodology, 253

Methodological Comparisons, 257

PART TWO: Peter Berger: The Social Construction
of Reality, 262

Background, 262

Key Concepts, 262

PART THREE: Dorothy Smith: Feminist
Standpoint Theory, 269

Background, 269

Standpoint Theory Defined, 270

Methodological Implications, 274

Conclusion, 275

CHAPTER SIX

✧ Theories of Rational Choice 278

Introduction, 279

Intellectual Roots, 281

PART ONE: Rational Choice and Individual Behavior, 289

George Homans: Elementary Social Behavior, 289

The Consequences of Individual Choice: James Coleman
and Rationality Applied, 305

PART TWO: Rational Choice and the Analysis
of Social Structure, 318

Peter Blau: Exchange and Social Integration, 318

Exchange and Power: Blau and Emerson, 325

Institutional Structures and the "Problem
of Collective Action," 330

Conclusion, 340

CHAPTER SEVEN

✧ Alternative Perspectives 343

Introduction: Structuralism and Post-Modernism, 344

PART ONE: Structuralism, 346

French Structuralism, 347

American Structuralism, 354

PART TWO: Structuration Theory: Anthony Giddens, 365

PART THREE: Rediscovering the Body, 373

The Sociology of the Body, 374

Sociobiology, 380

CHAPTER EIGHT

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| ✧ Conclusion | 396 |
|--------------|-----|

PART ONE: Social Theory and Understanding:
The Value of Multiple Perspectives, 397

Exploring Formal Education: Five Views
of the School, 397

Exploring the Role of Women
in Contemporary Society, 402

PART TWO: Historical Trends, 406

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| ✧ Selected Bibliography | 410 |
|-------------------------|-----|

| | |
|---------|-----|
| ✧ Index | 420 |
|---------|-----|