Instructor's Manual
Chapter 1: Thinking Like A Sociologist

Learning Objectives:

In this chapter, students will:

- explain the concept of the sociological imagination
- summarize the emergence and development of sociology as a social science discipline
- understand foundational concepts of sociology including social structure, culture, social institutions, statuses, and roles
- distinguish between the four central theoretical approaches taken throughout this book: conflict theory, feminist theory, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism
- consider the ways that the study of sociology is beneficial in multiple and useful ways in one's personal and professional life

Activities:

1. Imagine you are listening to a speech by a local mayor. They are blaming the problem of homelessness on people living out on the streets. They claim that those experiencing homelessness have created their own problems due to laziness and a lack of motivation. They say that any mental or physical health problems they have are solely the result of their own poor choices. How might you respond to this politician based on your understanding of the Sociological Imagination by C. Wright Mills? Draft some counterpoints against this mayor's point of view.

2. By yourself or with others, brainstorm and write down the different ways that your personal behaviour and decision making has been influenced and shaped by social structures such as culture and role expectations. How does your list compare with your classmates?

3. Drawing from movies and series that you are familiar with, find at least one character that exhibits personality traits, behaviours, viewpoints that match up to of each of the theories. List examples of how they match up to each theory. Also make note of when

there is more than one theoretical perspective in a character – this links to the concept of intersectionality which was discussed in this chapter.

Teaching Aids:

1. Feminism (video):
Ted Talk by Novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche
We teach girls that they can have ambition, but not too much ... to be successful, but not too successful, or they'll threaten men, says author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. In this classic talk that started a worldwide conversation about feminism, Adichie asks that we begin to dream about and plan for a different, fairer world -- of happier men and women who are truer to themselves.
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists?language=en

2. Intersectionality (article):
The intersectionality wars: When Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term 30 years ago, it was a relatively obscure legal concept. Then it went viral.
By Jane Coastonjane.coaston@vox.com Updated May 28, 2019, 9:09am EDT
https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/5/20/18542843/intersectionality-conservatism-law-race-gender-discrimination

3. Marx (article) - links to Conflict theory vs Functionalism:
Why Conservatives Get Karl Marx Very, Very Wrong
By Matt McManus
Conservative pundits are more likely to caricature Karl Marx's writings and beliefs than offer serious rebuttals to his many ideas. Why? Because Marx's trenchant insights expose deep inconsistencies in cherished right-wing doctrines.
https://www.jacobinmag.com/2020/08/conservatives-karl-marx-jordan-peterson-ben-shapiro

4. Class Conflict and Coronavirus (article):
The Atlantic Magazine
https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/04/coronavirus-class-war-just-beginning/609919/

5. An Introduction to the Discipline of Sociology (video)
By Macat
What is Sociology and why should we study it? This short video from Macat explains how the subject has developed over the years and introduces some of the key ideas and major

thinkers who have helped to shape it in only a few minutes.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32KG_ba_NJc

6. What are Social Institutions (video)
By Economic Geography Group Heidelberg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNVVHMVET20

7. Pyramid of the Capitalist System (historical image/diagram)
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e8/Pyramid_of_Capitalist_System.jpg