

Preface

Our purpose in writing this text is to convey both the excitement of sociology and its relevance to our lives. The excitement of sociology comes from what it studies: social life and social organization. Sociology encompasses all aspects of society: family life, community change, individual development, group differences, and gender inequality, to name a few. It involves a unique way of looking at the world in which we live, forcing us to question the obvious and understand how society and behavior are patterned and organized. Sociology will provide you with unique skills and abilities in research methods, in applying social theory in the working world and in your personal life, and in understanding social processes, organization, social problems, social institutions, and change. Our goal is not necessarily to change your views about these things, but to provide you with the analytical, theoretical, conceptual, and data-based facts to help you to support your views and decisions, whether they remain the same or change.

New to This Edition

As with each new edition, we have retained the characteristics of our *Introduction to Sociology* text that make it stand out. This edition continues to include an emphasis on the relevance of sociology with sections in each chapter on how students can apply specific sociological theories and/or concepts to their professional and personal lives.

Major changes have been made to this edition to ensure the information is current and accurate. Longstanding classical theoretical perspectives and concepts still form the underpinnings of the book. We honor the contributions of the authors and sociologists as central to the discipline. Updates to some of the opening vignettes include references to current events so that students can relate to them more effectively. These have always been favorably reviewed because they are relevant to the central ideas of each chapter. All citations throughout this edition have been checked (and revised if necessary) to ensure that they are as current and accurate as possible. Most of the tables and figures have been updated with the most current data available, and new tables and figures have been added wherever relevant. Of course, the text has been revised where needed to broaden discussions that the authors deemed especially important.

The opening vignette remains near the beginning of the chapter, and key terms remain in the margins in each chapter close to where they are discussed in the text. Many of the photographs have been changed to try to ensure relevance to students' lives. The Students in Real Life vignette have been retained in this edition; these feature real students and how sociology has helped them in their job or life.

We believe that our book offers a traditional, solid introduction to sociology that encourages students to see its relevance in their lives and the world around them.

All of these customizations are professionally typeset to produce a seamless textbook of the highest quality, with an updated table of contents and index to reflect the customized content.

Supplements & Resources

Instructor Supplements

A complete teaching package is available for instructors who adopt this book. This package includes an **online lab**, **instructor's manual**, **exam bank**, **PowerPoint™ slides**, **LMS Integration**, and **LMS exam bank files**.

Online Lab	BVT's online lab is available for this textbook on two different platforms—BVT <i>Lab</i> (at www.BVTLab.com), and LABBOOK™ (at www.BVTLabBook.com). These are described in the corresponding sections below. Both platforms allow instructors to set up graded homework, quizzes, and exams.
Instructor's Manual	The Instructor's Manual helps first-time instructors develop the course, while also offering seasoned instructors a new perspective on the materials. Each section of the Instructor's Manual coincides with a chapter in the textbook. The user-friendly format begins by providing a chapter summary, learning objectives, and detailed outlines for each chapter. Then, the manual presents lecture discussions, key terms, class activities, and answers to the end-of-chapter review questions. Lastly, additional resources—books, articles, websites, and videos—are listed to help instructors review the materials covered in each chapter.
Exam Bank	An extensive exam bank is available to instructors in both hard copy and electronic form. Each chapter has approximately 50 multiple-choice, 25 true/false, 10 short-answer, and five essay questions ranked by difficulty and style. Each question is referenced to the appropriate section of the text to make test creation quick and easy.
PowerPoint Slides	A set of PowerPoint slides includes about 30 slides per chapter, including a chapter overview, learning objectives, slides covering all key topics, key figures and charts, and summary and conclusion slides.
LMS Integration	BVT offers basic integration with Learning Management Systems (LMSs), providing single-sign-on links (often called LTI links) from Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle (or any other LMS) directly into BVT <i>Lab</i> , eBook ^{Plus} or the LABBOOK platform. Gradebooks from BVT <i>Lab</i> and the LABBOOK can be imported into most LMSs.
LMS Exam Bank Files	Exam banks are available as Blackboard files, QTI files (for Canvas) and Respondus files (for other LMSs) so they can easily be imported into a wide variety of course management systems.

Student Resources

Student resources are available for this textbook on both the BVT*Lab* platform and the LABBOOK platform, as described below. These resources are geared toward students needing additional assistance, as well as those seeking complete mastery of the content. The following resources are available:

Practice Questions	Students can work through hundreds of practice questions online. Questions are multiple choice or true/false in format and are graded instantly for immediate feedback.
Flashcards	BVT <i>Lab</i> includes sets of flashcards that reinforce the key terms and concepts from each chapter.
PowerPoint Slides	For a study recap, students can view all of the instructor PowerPoint slides online.
Additional LAB BOOK Resources	On the LABBOOK platform, comprehension questions are sprinkled throughout each chapter of the eBook, and detailed section summaries are included in the lab. Study tools such as text highlighting and margin notes are also available. These resources are not available in BVT <i>Lab</i> .

BVTLab

BVTLab is an affordable online lab for instructors and their students. It includes an online classroom with grade book and class forum, a homework grading system, extensive test banks for quizzes and exams, and a host of student study resources.

Course Setup	BVTLab has an easy-to-use, intuitive interface that allows instructors to quickly set up their courses and grade books and to replicate them from section to section and semester to semester.
Grade Book	Using an assigned passcode, students register into their section's grade book, which automatically grades and records all homework, quizzes, and tests.
Class Forum	Instructors can post discussion threads to a class forum and then monitor and moderate student replies.
Student Resources	All student resources for this textbook are available in digital form within BVTLab. Even if a class is not taught in the lab, students who have purchased lab access can still use the student resources in the lab.
eBook	BVTLab includes both a webBook™ and a downloadable eBook (on the VitalSource® platform). For some product bundles, BVT's LABBOOK can also be accessed from within BVTLab, offering enhanced eBook features and study tools for students, as described below.

LAB BOOK

LAB BOOK is a web-based eBook platform with an integrated lab providing comprehension tools and interactive student resources. Instructors can build homework and quizzes right into the eBook. LAB BOOK is either included with eBook^{Plus} or offered as a stand-alone product.

Course Setup	LAB BOOK uses the BVTLab interface to allow instructors to set up their courses and grade books and to replicate them from section to section and semester to semester.
Grade Book	Using an assigned passcode, students register into their section's grade book, which automatically grades and records all homework, quizzes, and tests.
Advanced eBook	LABBOOK is a mobile-friendly, web-based eBook platform designed for PCs, MACs, tablets, and smartphones. LABBOOK allows highlighting, margin notes, and a host of other study tools.
Student Resources	All student resources for this textbook are available in the LABBOOK, as described in the Student Resources section above.
Online Classes	A host of instructor resources and tools to support digital learning environments.

Customization

BVT's Custom Publishing Division can help you modify this book's content to satisfy your specific instructional needs. The following are examples of customization:

- Rearrangement of chapters to follow the order of your syllabus
- Deletion of chapters not covered in your course
- Addition of paragraphs, sections, or chapters you or your colleagues have written for this course
- Editing of the existing content, down to the word level
- Customization of the accompanying student resources and online lab
- Addition of handouts, lecture notes, syllabus, and so forth
- Incorporation of student worksheets into the textbook

All of these customizations will be professionally typeset to produce a seamless textbook of the highest quality, with an updated table of contents and index to reflect the customized content.

Acknowledgments

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A textbook is only as good as the editors who scrutinize every detail and offer suggestions to the authors, correct grammatical errors, and find mistakes. I would like to thank all of the editors of this book over the years, especially Regina Roths for her editing expertise, support, and patience in editing the seventh and eighth editions; Suzanne Schmidt for creative layout and design; and Teresa Daly for her exceptional proofreading.

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We feel it is imperative to make sure that our textbook is as current, relevant, and engaging as possible, and that it provides the greatest utility benefit to instructors and students alike. If you have any comments and/or suggestions from which future editions of this book may benefit, please let us know. We welcome your emails and will give due consideration to each and every one. Please send your communications to: production@bvtpublishing.com.