

# 5 Sociological theory

<p><b>Unit 3: The establishment of sociological theory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functionalism           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Parsons</i></li> <li><i>Merton</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marxism           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Humanist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Gramsci</i></li> <li>– <i>Critical theory</i></li> <li>– <i>The Frankfurt School</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Habermas</i></li> <li><i>Structuralist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Althusser</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Symbolic interactionism           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Mead</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>The self</i></li> <li><i>The I</i></li> <li><i>The Me</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Blumer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Variable analysis</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Goffman</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Dramaturgy</i></li> <li><i>Performance</i></li> <li><i>Impression management</i></li> <li><i>Frontstage</i></li> <li><i>Backstage</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 2: Classical sociology and the advent of modernity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marx           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Base</i></li> <li><i>Superstructure</i></li> <li><i>Alienation</i></li> <li><i>Revolution</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Durkheim           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Social facts</i></li> <li><i>Moral regulation</i></li> <li><i>Social solidarity</i></li> <li><i>Anomie</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Weber           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Meaning</i></li> <li><i>Verstehen</i></li> <li><i>Ideal type</i></li> <li><i>Types of action</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Unit 4: Structure and action in sociology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structuralism           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Saussure</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Signs</i></li> <li>– <i>Signifiers</i></li> <li>– <i>Signified</i></li> <li>– <i>Diachronic</i></li> <li>– <i>Synchronic</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Lévi-Strauss</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Myths</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Semiotics</li> <li>• Ethnomethodology           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Garfinkel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Documentary method</i></li> <li>– <i>Indexicality</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Phenomenology           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Husserl</i></li> <li><i>Schutz</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Structuration           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Giddens</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Duality of structure</i></li> <li>– <i>Rules and resources</i></li> <li>– <i>Reflexivity</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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1 Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories

**Theory and Methods – Sociological theory overview (pages 253–298)**

6 The relationship between sociology and social policy

5 Debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom

4 The relationship between theory and methods

3 The nature of science and the extent to which sociology can be regarded as scientific

2 The concepts of modernity and postmodernity in relation to sociological theory

**Unit 1: What is sociological theory?**

- Models
- Propositions
- Logical evaluation
- Empirical evaluation

**Unit 2: Classical sociology and the advent of modernity**

- Modernity
- The Enlightenment

**Unit 5: Challenges to sociological theory**

- Globalisation
- Postmodernism
- Lyotard*
- Baudrillard*