



















# DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS

- A social system denotes a durable organization of interaction between “actors” and “contexts.”
- Its reach extends from mundane or everyday micro-systems to macro-level systems like the nation-state and global society.
- Parsons classifies every social system and (its components) with one of four subsystems.



# DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS

- When seeing society as a system, the different areas of social life serve functions:
  - (L) Pattern-maintenance (i.e., latency): The maintenance of a system's fundamental patterns.
  - (G) Goal-attainment: Rarely does a system have just one goal but a several hierarchical goals ordered by importance and urgency.
  - (A) Adaptation: Concerns that arise when scarce facilities must be commandeered for particular goals instead of others.
  - (I) Integration: How successfully subsystems integrate into the system of which they are a part.



A - adaptation		G - goal attainment	
ECONOMIC		POLITICAL	
EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, FAMILY		LEGAL	
L - latent (pattern maintenance - tension management)		I - integration	

