I have taken sociology classes in the past, so most of the information in this module wasn’t necessarily new to me, but nonetheless, it was very interesting to look at the different approaches that different people have taken to sociology through time. C. Wright Miller’s idea of sociological imagination, as described in “The Promise [of Sociology],” investigates how the subjective perception of societal phenomena interacts with widely understood ideas of culture and history to contribute to what sociologists observe and study. A similar sentiment is echoed in Berger’s *Invitation to Sociology* as the author discusses the myriad of factors that sociologists can consider in order to inform their understanding of societies. The interplay between these aspects of people’s everyday lives is then further informed by race, gender, and even the economic systems that people live in. Anna Julia Cooper studied the ways that race, and gender impacted the ways that individuals took part in society, during a time when both being a woman and being African American, of which Cooper was both, had significant sociological consequences. Going through the module, one of the most interesting things to me was learning about Max Weber’s work investigating the relationship between religion, specifically Protestantism, and capitalism. This was especially interesting to think about given that capitalism has spread throughout the world, including into places where Christianity isn’t the predominant religious culture. Additionally, now people talk about “internalized capitalism,” the idea that the characteristics that lead to success in a capitalist society become the characteristics that people begin to use to guide their sense of morality and make decisions. This seems like a very similar idea to what Weber describes in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,* except sort of backwards*.* Weber talked about how religious ideals shaped capitalism in the late 18th and early 20th centuries, whereas the idea of “internalized capitalism” seems to suggest that this influence has come full circle, with capitalism carrying ideals which originated in Protestantism into the more secular 21st century. This is also an example of another key question ins sociology: what things motivate people’s beliefs and behavior within a society. I think it’s particularly fascinating that beliefs and behaviors are often very different and that a variety of methods in sociology can be used to study why these misalignments in belief versus behavior exist and even why these things can sometimes directly oppose one another. This idea of sociological factors underlying motivation is also demonstrated in the “Wall-E as Sociological Storytelling” video essay.

Overall, I thought this module gave a thorough overview of the many different sides of sociology and illustrated just how variable this discipline can be. There are so many ways to study society and every person brings their own lens and unique perspective and experience to whatever they study. Most academic fields strive for objectivity and limit bias, and I think while sociology seeks to do the same, it also recognizes the implicit bias in the endeavor of an individual studying a society in which they take part. Sociology works to understand how this bias and subjectivity create the foundations on which we all base our understanding of the world.