Social Groups

- 2 or more people who identify and interact with one another
- Contain people with shared experiences, loyalties & interests
- **Non-Group**
  - Category: common status (e.g teenagers)
  - Crowd: non-interacting group (e.g concert)
    - Sometimes a crowd can become a group as a result of crisis
- **Primary groups**
  - Small group, members share personal & enduring relationships (e.g family, close friends)
    - First groups we experience in life
    - Give us a sense of "we", incredibly important in our socialization
    - Shape attitudes, behaviour & identity
    - An end, not a means—> they are it's own purpose
    - Members are irreplaceable, no tabs are kept
    - Intimate interactions (how are you = truth)
    - 3 types of dysfunctions of primary groups
      - May fight & humiliate each other—> bad for people in the group and society as a whole, may cause problems as they go out in the world
      - May set itself against society—> forming countercultures
      - Breakdown throughout the society
- **Secondary groups**
  - Large, impersonal (e.g school, work) whose members pursue a specific goal or activity (means to an end, looking to get something out of it)
  - Keep things more casual (how are you = good)
  - Often short term but can be long term (e.g CEPEG class vs. teachers)
  - People in this group are not irreplaceable
  - Feel alienated/lonely—> form primary groups within secondary groups
- **In-groups & Out-groups**
  - In-group: any group that you belong to, social group commanding members' esteem & loyalty (e.g family, Canadian)

- Out-groups: social group toward which one feels some opposition/competition
- **Group size**
  - Dyad
    - 2 member group
    - Very intimate, but unstable (if one leaves that throws off the group)
  - Triad
    - 3 member group
    - More stable, more types of interaction possible
- **Group Leadership: 2 Roles**
  - Instrumental: focuses on the completion of tasks
    - Members look to them for plans/get orders
    - Secondary ties
  - Expressive: collective well being
    - Promoting well-being of members and minimizing tension between members
    - Primary ties
- **Group Leadership: 3 Decision making styles**
  - Authoritarian: leader making decisions
    - Focus on instrumental concerns
    - Good in emergencies but may make people feel like they're being bossed around
  - Democratic: member involvement (more expressive)
  - Lassiez-faire: lets group function on its own
- **Group Conformity**
  - <u>Asch</u>
    - Willing to compromise our own judgements to avoid being different—> go along with the group even if the group is wrong
  - <u>Milgram</u>
    - Looks at the conformity/obedience to authority figures (teacher + learner experiment)
    - Many sociologists did not believe that people would go along with this experiment—> people follow orders, even to the point of harming others & experiencing discomfort
    - Also put people in uniforms, make people stare up at the sky
  - <u>Janis</u>
    - Groupthink: tendency of group members to conform resulting in a narrow view of some issues

- Can occur in any group—> is important in relation to more serious issues (e.g war/space shuttles)
- When it is a more elite group making very consequential decisions, people do not say what they think because they believe everyone around them are smarter, they fear getting kicked out

- **Reference groups**
  - When we are looking to see how we are doing in the world, we compare ourselves in reference to specific groups/people—> point of reference in making evaluations & decisions
  - Form of social control (e.g thinking of skipping school but all other CEGEP students are there, we don't want people to be disappointed)
  - Stouffer
    - Looked at soldiers in WW2 in two different units (A & B) —> they are not each other's reference groups because they didnt know each other
    - He asked them if they thought they were likely to get promoted—> in unit A there were high levels of promotion and in unit B, there were low levels of promotion
    - Members in A did not think they would get promoted and unit B thought they would—> members use soldiers in their own unit as points of reference (they did not feel deprived relative to others in their groups)

- **Social Diversity**
  - Large groups (e.g CEGEP) turn inwards to look for relationships
  - Smaller, heterogenous (a lot of difference) groups turn outwards (e.g working at Tim Hortons —> do your job and leave)
    - More homogenous groups would turn inwards
  - Physical boundaries create social boundaries
    - Mountains/rivers/train-tracks/fences make us interact with people in our proximity

- **Networks**
  - Web of weak social ties
  - Milgram's six degrees of separation experiment done in US (6 people to get a letter through)
  - Occasional contact
  - Can be a powerful resource
  - Internet is a global network

Gender & Sexuality

- **Sex characteristics**
  - Primary sex characteristics (seen at birth, penis or vagina)
  - Secondary sex characteristics (adams apple, breasts)
  - Intersex: ambiguous or a combination of male and female genitals
  - Case of David Remar—> circumcision went terribly wrong, penis was burnt off and he was raised as a girl (doctors/parents clearly nurture matters more than nature, socialization is all that matters)
    - With this case, many parents of intersex children began to select the gender for their child
    - David began to suffer from terrible depression (given hormones and said it was vitamins) and his parents told him what happened to him—> in his adulthood he committed suicide
    - As a result, we have to consider that nature plays a role too
    - Can sex exist on a continuum? Or can it only fit in the two binary categories?
- **Gender Identity**
  - Sense of belonging to a particular sex (generally we associate with the sex assigned at birth)
  - Cisgender: gender identity lines up with biological sex
  - Transgender: umbrella term for anyone who is not cisgender —> wants to fully be the opposite sex
    - Debate about whether or not people should be allowed to transition before 18 years old
    - Easier to transition before puberty
    - Infertility caused by oral hormones
    - Trans kids have very high rates of self-harm & suicide—> act to avoid this
  - Gender non-conforming: seen as a continuum, fluid
  - Transsexual: transition from one sex to another
  - Gender role: widely spread expectations about how males or females should act
    - Not fixed, can change from society to society (e.g who we think should be doing more cooking)
- **Sexual attitudes in Canada**
  - Until 1969, sexuality was pretty heavily regulated
    - From 1892-1969 many sexual acts were illegal

- Contraception was illegal (condoms used to prevent disease/with a prostitute)
- Homosexuality was criminalized & medicalized (said it was a mental disease, considered pedophile, predator, homicidal, contagious)
- 1952-1977—> immigration laws prevented homosexuals from entering Canada
- In 1969, Pierre Elliot Trudeau said the government has no place in the bedroom of the nation
- Sexual revolution
  - In the 1920's there was movement towards urbanization, dating, detaching from families
  - Kinsey's studies (1948,1953)
    - Alfred Kinsey studied human sexual behaviour
    - People wanted to know about it because it was the first time it got people thinking/ talking about it—> many people felt they were deviant in terms of their sexual behaviour (masturbation, premarital sex) & as they started to read his books, they realized they weren't the only one
    - Sexual behaviour in human male (1948), female (1953)
    - Laid the groundwork for the sexual revolution
  - The "pill" (1960)
    - Also a contributing factor for the sexual revolution
    - Does not require something to be done in the heat of passion
    - Women can decide if they want a child or not
    - When it was first introduced it was illegal and immoral—> when it became permissible it was only made available to married women for spacing in children
    - Became available for menstrual regulation, in 1969 not criminalized in Canada
    - In 1972 it was made legal in the supreme court of the US
  - Youth Culture
    - The young people of society are the movers and shakers—> large group of people that are able to shape what is going on in society
    - Ideas of sex without attachment/babies in the late 60's early 70's
    - Baby boomers = first generation to grow up with the idea that sex were part of people's lives regardless if they were married
  - Sexual Counterrevolution
    - Backlash - conservative call for return to "family values"
    - Enormous concern of STD's —> AIDS makes it onto public consciousness

- Condom use becomes extremely encouraged, emphasis on sexual responsibility
- Politically Ronald Regan comes in—> conservative
- Did not change the idea that people should decide for themselves when/with whom to have a sexual relationship but # of partners became limited
- Premarital Sex
  - Prior to the sexual revolution, people born in the early 1900's said that 50% of males, 6% of females had premarital sex by the time they were 19 (huge imbalance—> women kept it a secret)
  - Born in 1970—> 76% of males, 66% of females
- Extramarital sex
  - Our values in our society still do not think this is ok—> we discourage this but it is only criminalized in some societies
  - Lots of movies, soap operas, novels revolve around this—> makes us think it is more common than it is
  - Seems to be pretty equal between men and women
- Sexual Scripts
  - Expectations for how we are going to perform sexually —> what is acceptable/is not
  - Everything about how we engage (e.g engaging eye contact, who asks who out, who pays, who are we supposed to be attracted to)
- Sexual Orientation
  - A person's romantic & emotional attraction to another person
  - Involves sexual attraction, intimacy (who have you been involved with in any way), identity (how do you identify)
  - Prior to Kinsey there were just two categories—> homosexual or heterosexual
  - Kinsey said there is a scale from exclusively homosexual to exclusively heterosexual with bisexual in the middle (asexual also exists but was not on the scale)
  - Difficult to measure—> why do we care?
    - Difficult to measure because there are different ways to measure sexual orientation
    - In order to measure change
    - Some would like to say it is a small fraction of the population—> deviant
    - Some would say it is a big part of the population
- Gay Rights movement
  - Inspired by women/civil rights movement

- Greater acceptance & reduction of homophobia: fear of interaction with gays/lesbians/bisexuals
- New Terminology & concepts
  - LGBTQIA—> T & I are included because if you are not cis you are part of a minority
  - Pansexual —> potentially attracted to everybody (gender blind)
  - "They"
- **Sexual Issues & Controversies: Teen pregnancy**
  - Teen pregnancy is something that has existed through human history—> before it was celebrated
  - Today we consider teen pregnancy in a very negative light—> extreme interruption in career path, do not live as well financially
  - Now, we are getting married later and losing our virginities later
  - Controversy: sex education in schools pros/cons
    - Pros
      - Learn about changing body
      - Resources re: safe sex
      - Concern that parents won't do this
      - Costs of unplanned pregnancies (e.g health care)
      - Consent
    - Cons
      - Encourages teens to have sex
      - Immoral
  - Abortion: issue with
    - Morality
      - Feticide (aborting fetus) is not considered murder in Canada
    - Legal rights
      - Uncertainty about who should be allowed input on the decision
      - 1869-1969—> illegal
      - 1969-1988—> legal upon approval by 3 doctors
      - 1988—> absence of clarity on law - it is currently decriminalized
    - Access
      - We are a society that provides health care—> forms of medical care should be accessible to everybody

- Abortion pill can only be used within the first 7 weeks of pregnancy (mifepristone)
  - Pill must be taken in front of the doctor—> hurdle for women to prevent them from taking it
  - Women may treat this too casually and take it as a form of birth control—> make abortions easy
  - Less expensive, less invasive
  - Medical training—> not taught in all medical schools and debate about if it should be
- Sex-selective abortion
  - Abortions based off of the sex of the child
  - Feminists say women should be able to deicide for their bodies—> when it comes to sex-selective abortion however, the lines are blurred

- **Pornography**
  - Sexually explicit material that causes sexual arousal (what do we define as explicit? what causes sexual arousal?)
  - Before, porn needed to be purchased in playing cards or magazines —> later it was in films (not many people did this)
  - Starts to be more commonly viewed on VHS and takes off enormously with the internet
  - Widespread agreement that child pornography is an offence—> children cannot give consent
  - Gets murkier when teenagers take pictures of themselves and put them out on social media (still considered as child pornography)
  - In adult porn there is the issue of how it is being depicted (not sacred)
  - Women are sexually objectified—> normalizes violence against women and contributes to rape culture
  - Who is profiting? At who's expense? What are the working conditions like? Are they being forced into this?
  - Issues about censorship—> do we want there to be freedom of speech?
  - If we are concerned about how porn is being depicted, we need to look at the hyper-sexualization of society in the mainstream media—> larger issue, not just in terms of pornography itself

- **Prostitution**
  - Exchange of sex for money

- Debate about whether or not it should be criminalized or legalized
  - Criminalized for reasons of exploitation, STD's, to protect the sanctity of marriage (people on religious grounds)
  - In favour—> make sure it is safe, payments through credit cards, health checks, vacation days, can be taxed (good for government)
- Debate about terminology
  - Prostitution, sex work/industry (sex workers, clients)—> bring them out of the shadows, human trafficking (victim, abusers/exploiters)

- **Sexual Assault**
  - Violence using sex to hurt, humiliate or control another person
  - Used to be kept quite—> now addressed more widely
  - Still extremely under-reported —> shame stigma, victim blaming, lack of faith in the justice system/lack of effectiveness, lack of belief, generally the perpetrators are known/ loved ones
  - Consent—> we are aware of this problem and we need to be clear about what consent is/looks like

- **Structural-Functional Analysis**
  - Society depends on sexuality for reproduction
  - Need to regulate sexuality in order to help support family life
  - Cultural universals: incest taboo—> controls sexuality and maintains order
  - Latent Function of prostitution—> if you're gonna have sex outside of marriage there is no emotional attachment, good for those who are not attractive
  - Critical evolution: ignores gender & sexual diversity

- **Symbolic-Interaction Analysis**
  - Social construction of reality as a result of interactions—> look at how it varies over time (e.g virginity, pre-marital sex…)
  - Global comparisons of norms and values
  - Critical evaluation: reveals constructed chat alert of familiar patterns, but some patterns are less variable (e.g mom is more nurturing)

- **Social- Conflict Analysis**
  - Sexuality reflects/creates inequality
    - Looks at broader social structures —> patriarchy & sexual double standards (e.g prostitutions)

- Porn normalizes the objectification of women & sexual violence, stigmatizing women & hurting them
- Queer theory: challenges heterosexism—> heterosexist societies stigmatize men and women
- Critical evaluation: sexuality is not a power issue for all, recent reduction in looking at women as "sex objects" —> ignores progresses

Deviance

- Recognized violation of cultural norms
- Can refer to both actions & attitudes that have the "outsider" element to them
- Sometimes involves choice but not always (e.g disfigured—> not trying to look different)
- Lots of cultural variations because our norms/values vary across cultures, lots of variation across time as well
- Not all about levels of seriousness, could be more casual (e.g dress code vs criminal justice system)
- Some things that are deviant are not illegal (e.g skipping class, swearing, tattoo on face), some things that are illegal are not deviant (downloading music, jay walking, marijuana, underage drinking at prom —> all very expected) deviant + illegal = murder, assault
- We tend to think about it in a negative light but it could also refer to over enthusiasm
- Strongly related it to crime
- **Crime**: violation of criminal law
- **Social Control**: attempts by society to regulate thoughts/behaviours (social sanctions)
- **Criminal justice system**: formal response to deviance by police, courts & prison officials to alleged violations of the law
- **Biological context**
  - Focus on individual, checks for something inherent
  - Early studies: is there something about the person's biology that can help us understand why they have committed a crime/find something that could help us protect ourselves
    - Lombroso looked at men & women in prison—> head shape & body size
    - Criminals as atavists—> not completely evolved from apes = ears that stick out, longer arms, hairy…
    - Faulty—> physicality does not play the part he suggested

- Sheldon (1940's) looks at body types in prison—> many muscular men (not a reason for committing crime)
- Dorothy Lewis—> head injuries, she noticed that when she looked at youth criminals they had higher rates of head injuries
- Now
  - Connection between genetics & social influences may account for criminality
- But
  - Doesn't explain how some behaviours are *defined* as deviant
- **Psychological context**
  - Also looks at the individual
  - Look at unsuccessful socialization
  - Connection between personality patterns and deviance
  - But… most serious crimes are committed by people with normal psychological profiles
- **Sociologists**
  - We tend to view deviance as the free choice of an individual but all behaviour is shaped by society—> search for factors outside the individual
  - Look at social class, socialization & subculture membership
  - Social foundations of deviance
    - Look at how deviance varies according to cultural norms
      - Action becomes deviant in relation to particular norms—> since norms vary, so does deviance
    - People become deviant as others define them that way (if we react to what you have done in an exclusive manner = deviant)
    - Both norms and the way that people define situations involve social power (who gets to create/enforce laws)
- **Structural Functional Analysis**
  - Durkheim's insight:
    - We see deviance across societies therefore it must have some function…
    - Deviance affirms cultural values & norms (example of what not to be—> needed to define and support morality)
    - Response to deviance clarifies moral boundaries—> draws a boundary between right & wrong
    - Responding to deviance brings people together (we can feel superior)

- Deviance encourages social change —> today's deviance can become tomorrow's morality
- Dysfunctions
  - Reduces certainty that everyone is going to follow the rules
  - If deviance is rewarded it reduces other people's willingness to follow rules
  - Costly (e.g law enforcement)
- Merton's Strain Theory
  - To conform = seeking conventional goals (e.g good job/money) by using conventional means (school/work hard)
  - Strain between our cultures emphasis on wealth and the lack of opportunities to get rich may cause involvement in crime
  - 4 responses to inability to succeed
    - Innovation
      - Conventional goals, different means (property crime)
    - Ritualism
      - Just going through the motions while no longer believing in the goal (different goals, conventional means)
    - Retreatism
      - Retreating to alcoholism/drug addiction
      - Different goals, different means
    - Rebellion
      - Rejections of goals and means—> active effort to change society
- Deviant subcultures
    - Clowhard & Ohlin: the type of deviance you turn to (as a result of strain) depends on the opportunities you have —> "Relative Opportunity Structure)
  - A. Cohen—> delinquent behaviour = a different measure of success which is belonging, most common among lower class due to least opportunity for conventional success
  - Criminal subcultures—> structure of opportunity favours criminal activity
  - Conflict subcultures—> armed street gang
  - Retreatist subcultures —> drop out, drugs + alcohol
  - Characteristics of deviant subcultures: trouble, toughness, smartness, excitement, belief in fate, desire for freedom
- Critical evaluation

- Points to functions of crime
- Explains some forms of deviance better than others (e.g crime that is not associated with success)
- Assumes we share for judging what is right/wrong
- Lots of focus on crimes committed by poor
- **Labelling Deviance: Symbolic-Interaction Analysis**
  - Deviance & Conformity: result not from what people do but from how others respond to those actions
  - Social Construction of Reality: highly variable process of detection, definition & response
  - Different levels of deviance (E. Lemert)
    - Primary deviance: little effect on one's self-concept (e.g getting very drunk one time) —> does not change how others/you see yourself
    - Secondary deviance: if defined by people as deviant, a person may adopt the identity (do something more regularly, people change their response to you—> start to exclude you, you become bitter & become more deviant)
    - Stigma: powerfully negative label, greatly changes a person's self-concept & social identity (mental illness, illegal crime—> public ceremony, prison…)
      - Retrospective labelling—> recalling shady behaviour in the past
      - Projective labelling —> affects in the future
    - Labelling difference as deviance (Thomas Szaz)
      - Szaz said we are very intolerant in society—> tendency to treat difference as deviance or even illness
      - In the 60's, people who where mentally ill/homosexual were criminalized and instutionlized—> believed too many people were being diagnosed with mental illness
      - Said that society enforces conformity to standards set by those in power
    - Medicalization of Deviance
      - Transformation of moral/legal deviance into a medical condition (e.g alcoholism as a disease)
      - Affects who responds (police vs. doctors)
      - Affects how people respond (punishment vs. treatment)
      - Affects whether the deviant is held personally accountable
    - Sutherland's Differential Association Theory

- Conformity & Deviance are learned behaviours —> tendency depends on the amount of contact with others who encourage/reject conventional behaviour
- Focus on effects of group membership —> learn from the people we associate with
- Influence of mass media (video games, movies…)
- Choice of association- individuals help produce their own orientations to life
- Hirschi's Control Theory
  - Would argue that there are times when we want to be deviant and that what prevents us from doing this are controls (4 types)
    - Attachments: encourage conformity (friends, family)
    - Opportunities: greater access = greater conformity (success in school/work we don't want to risk it)
    - Involvement: links to "legitimate" activities
    - Belief: in conventional morality & respect for authority
- Critical evaluation
  - Most applicable to minor forms of deviance
  - Some kinds of behaviour are universally condemned—> they see things as relative
    - Research on consequences is inconclusive
    - Some seek a deviant label
- **Deviance & Inequality: Social-Conflict Analysis**
  - Looks at who creates the laws? Why? How are they enforced?
  - Deviance and power
    - Norms/laws reflect interests of rich & powerful (they want to protect their property)
    - Powerful have resources to resist deviant labels
    - Belief that norms & laws are natural & good masks political character—> we need to ask who creates the law, who's interest is being served?
  - Deviance & Capitalism: People labelled deviant:
    - Those who threaten private property
    - Those who cannot or will not work
    - People who resist authority
    - People who challenge the status quo (e.g antiwar activists)
  - White Collar Crime
    - Crimes committed by people of high social position relating to their occupations (generally doesn't involve violence, done for reasons of wealth)

- Generally treated leniently
  - They are very complex—> involves moving number's around, not as much of a public outcry (e.g embezzlement, bribery)
  - Treated by civil law, not criminal law
  - Little to no prison time
- Corporate Crime
  - Illegal actions of a corporation or people acting on it's behalf (e.g selling products when you know something is wrong with it, working people overtime)
  - Includes pollution, occupational disease, death
  - Often unpunished or fined
- Organized Crime
  - Business supplying illegal goods & services (e.g sex/drugs/gambling to willing buyers)
- Critical Evolution
  - Laws exist to protect the environment, workers & consumers, not just rich
  - Deviance does not just exist in capitalist societies
- **Deviance & Social Diversity**
  - Hate crime: criminal act against a person or a person's property by an offender motivated by racial or other bias
- **Deviance and gender**
  - World applies more stringent normative controls to women—> more heavily supervised
  - Women & men are judged differently
- **Crime**
  - Violation of criminal laws involving act & criminal intent (mens rea—> guilty mind)
  - Types of Crime
    - Crimes against persons (e.g assault, murder, robbery if home, kidnapping)
    - Crimes against property (e.g burglary/arson)
    - Victimless Crime (e.g possession of drugs, prostitution)
  - Criminal Statistics
    - Canadian Uniform Crime Rate (CUCR) based on crimes reported to police & on crimes witnessed by police (domestic abuse/family crime unreported)
    - Police statistics: property & violent crime rising from the 1960's-90's, then declining
    - Victimization surveys: rate is higher—> ask people in broader surveys if they've ever been a victim/if they reported it

- We get skewed information about the criminal's profile—> street criminal
  - Age: 15-24
  - More often males than females (79% males, 21% females—> study in 2005)
  - Lower socio-economic status
  - Rate & ethnicity: data not collected in official statistics (to make it seem that justice has a blind eye), but police appear to profile
- Canadian Criminal justice system
  - Basic principles:
    - Presumption of innocence, crown counsel must be able to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt
    - Due process—> evidence gathered & produced
    - Independent jury/unbiased judge —> should not be able to pay someone off
    - Openness & accountability —> nothing should be done behind closed doors, let the public/press in
    - Equality before the law —> right to liberty, security, not unduly searched/property seized
  - Police
    - Enforce the law, open 24/7
    - Maintain peace
    - Provision of social services (e.g look for missing people)
    - They have the authority/duty to act with non-negotiable force (e.g tasers)
    - With lots of discretion, arrests depend on:
      - How serious is the crime?
      - What is the victims preference? (more motivated to arrest if victim is frantic)
      - Is the suspect cooperative or not?
      - Have they arrested the suspect before?
      - Are bystanders present? (more likely to be arrested—> show authority)
      - Is the suspect a visible minority? (not supposed to factor in)
  - Court
    - Determine innocence or guilt
    - For the most part cases are dealt with through plea bargaining—> legal negotiation that reduces a charge for a defendant's guilty plea

- Benefits for state/society: faster, less expensive, societal protection, certainty of guilt, get testimony against someone else
- Costs: insufficient punishment/possible endangerment
- Benefits to suspect: reduced charge, lighter sentence, less expensive
- Costs: innocent people plead guilty—> poor/minority, stigma
- Punishment
  - Retribution: act of moral vengeance
  - Deterrence: attempt to discourage crime
    - Specific: for an individual—> change behaviour due to punishment
    - General: society—> people hear & change their behaviour
  - Rehabilitation: reforming the offender
    - Poorly socialized—> retraining to be better integrated
  - Societal Protections: keep them off the streets
  - Community based corrections: probation (no prison) & parole (some prison)
    - Prison over-crowded, expensive, break positive ties
  - Critical Eval of Punishment
    - Deters some crime, but lots of recidivism (re-committing crimes)—> we don't know if general deterrence works, not enough funding for rehabilitation
    - Nature of prisons strengthen criminal skills
    - Stigma —> "ex-con" is a huge obstacle

Social Stratification

- System by which a society ranks categories of people in a hierarchy- 4 basic principles
  - Trait of an entire society (all societies except hunting/gathering)
  - Persists over generations—> born into position your parents have (you can move up/down in some societies)
  - Universal, but variable
  - Involves inequality & beliefs of fairness
- **Caste System**
  - System that is closed —> born into a position & staying there (ascribed status)
  - Largely determines occupation
  - Generally mandates endogamy (marrying within your group)

- Powerful cultural beliefs (need to maintain honour for your family)
- Limits out-group contact
- Examples: India (culturally persists)
- **Class system**
  - Stratification based on birth + achievement—> open system
  - Majority of movement is horizontal (same level but not same work)
  - Meritocracy: stratification based on merit
- **United Kingdom: From Caste to Class System**
  - Middle ages: caste system
    - Church leaders (first estate)
    - Hereditary Nobility (second state)
    - Commoners/ serfs (third state)
  - With the industrial revolution, power of nobility is reduced + creation of middle class
- **Classless Societies**
  - Former Soviet Union claimed to be classes (revolutions to get rid of social stratification—> by getting rid of private property) but four unequal categories
    - High Government officials (Appartchiks)
    - Soviet Intelligensia
    - Manual workers
    - Rural Peasantry
    - INEQUALITY IS MORE THAN ECONOMIC RESOURCES
- **Structural- Functional Analysis**
  - Davis - Moore—> there must be benefits of social stratification
  - By offering unequal rewards (opportunities for wealth) we are able to ensure that the best/most hardworking are going to fill the most important jobs in society
  - Encourages people to their best
  - Critical evaluation:
    - Do rewards reflect contribution to society? (e.g Kim Kardashian vs. physician)
    - The privileged can prevent development of the gifted poor
    - Inequality creates conflict (creates jealousy & resentment)
- **Social Conflict analysis**
  - Focuses on stratification related to access to economic resources
  - Capitalists get rich off the work of the Proletariat

- Alienation should lead to overthrow of capitalists
- Critical evaluation
    - Severing rewards from work causes low productivity
    - No revolution occurred in advanced capitalist societies
- Why No Marxist Revolution?
    - Fragmentation of capitalist class (he only saw the capitalists and proletariat but he did not see the middle class—> ownership got divided)
    - Higher standard of living for workers
    - More worker organizations (unions based off Marxist writings)
    - More extensive legal protections
    - Critical evaluation: wealth is still concentrated, workers still struggle, rich still use legal system for their benefit
- Max Weber: SES
    - SES: Socioeconomic status
    - 3 dimensions of inequality: class position, status, power (access to power in gov would be the highest)
    - Inequality likely to persist even in socialist societies

- **Symbolic interaction Theory**
    - Micro-level —> importance of symbols/interactions
    - Social standing influences interactions
    - Consumption patterns (do we buy things to signal our standing to others)
- **Stratification & Technology: A Global Perspective**
    - Kuznet's curve: looks at how inequality changes over time —> more pronounced stratification comes with technological advances
    - Hunters + gatherers: little inequality
    - Horticulture: surplus begins- more inequality
    - Agricultural: more surplus- huge inequality
    - Industrial: specialization: inequality reduces (e.g democracy & human rights)
- **Social Mobility**
    - Movement in a stratified society
    - Vertical: moving up/down (good job, marriage)
    - Horizontal: moving around within your social class
    - Intragenerational mobility: in your own lifetime that you move either vertically/horizontally

- Intergenerational mobility: comparing individuals across generations (intra has to happen)
- Structural Social mobility: when an entire society moves upwards (e.g industrialization/ warfare)
- 5 Conclusions about mobility in Canada & USA
    1. Over the past century mobility has been fairly high (mostly horizontal)
    2. Intergenerational mobility is small (little incremental steps over time)
    3. Long term trend has been upward
    4. Social mobility since the 1970's has been uneven
    5. Short-term trend has been downward