Public issue - When something affects a large num of people

* Divorce rate being 50%
* Unemployment rate being 30%

Socios - Society

Logos - To study

Sociology - The scientific study of human social relationships, groups, and societies

Rigorous Research Methods- Surveys, interviews, observations, archival research, etc. to yield data that can be tested, challenged, and revised.

Homogamy - “Like marries like”

* People marry people who are like them

Critical Thinking - The ability to evaluate claims about truth by using reason and evidence

Development of Sociological Thinking

* Scientific Revolution
  + Belief in science and reason- rise of modern natural and physical sciences in the 16th century
* The Enlightenment
  + Ideals such as equality, liberty, and fundamental human rights and the belief that sociological understanding would create a more egalitarian, peaceful society, in which individuals would be free to realize their full potential
* Industrial Revolution
  + Shift from agriculture to manufacturing - rapid social change
* Urbanization
  + Mass migration from rural farms to urban factories - industrialization fostered the growth of cities, as people moved from rural fields to urban factories in search of work

Auguste Comte (1798-1857) - Founding father of sociology

* Positivism - Knowledge based on scientific reasoning and facts
* Theological - key ways of understanding the world framed in terms of God’s will, superstition, imagination, and religion
* Metaphysical - the basic belief that society is the product of natural rather than supernatural

Harriet Martineau (1802-1876) - First female sociologist

* Societies must ensure social justice for women, enslaved people, and other oppressed groups
* Translated Comte’s works to english from french

Emile Durkheim - Pioneered early research on social solidarity and suicide

* Social Facts - social qualities external to people that shape their thinking and behavior
* Social Solidarity - the social bonds that unites members of a social group
  + Mechanical Solidarity - Based on shared values, beliefs, and traditions
  + Organic Solidarity - Based on mutual dependence on one another

Max Weber (1864-1920) - German Sociologist

* Verstehen-Interpretive Understanding
  + Explaining social relationships by having the sociologist explain how the subjects being observed might perceive the situation
* Formal rationality and bureaucracies - the context in which people’s pursuit of goals is increasingly shaped by rules, regulations, and larger social studies.