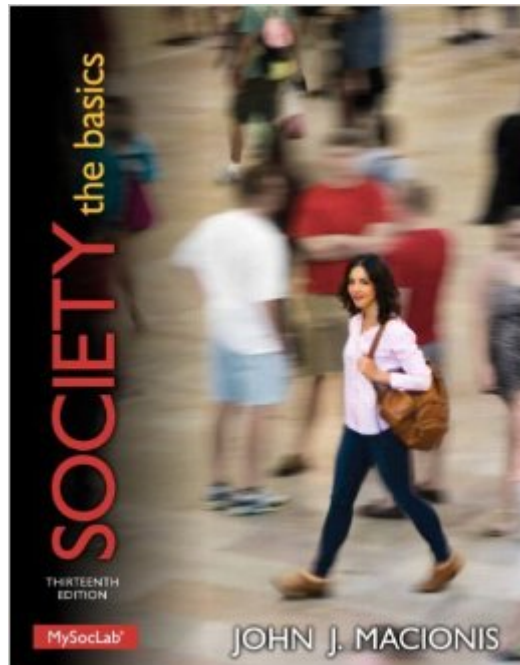


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# Society: The Basics (13th Edition)



## Synopsis

Seeing Sociology in your Everyday Life With a complete theoretical framework and a global perspective, *Society: The Basics*, 13/e offers students an accessible and relevant introduction to sociology. John Macionis, author of the best-selling *Introductory Sociology* franchise over the last three decades, empowers students to see the world around them through a sociological lens, helping them to better understand their own lives. This informative, engaging, and entertaining title will change the way readers see the world and open the door to many new opportunities.

MySocLab is an integral part of the Macionis learning program. Engaging activities and assessments provide a teaching a learning system that helps students see the world through a sociological lens. With MySocLab, students can develop critical thinking skills through writing, explore real-world data through the new Social Explorer, and watch the latest entries in the Core Concept Video Series. *Society: The Basics*, Thirteenth Edition is also available via REVEL<sup>™</sup>, an immersive learning experience designed for the way today's students read, think, and learn. Learn more. [^](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have to use this book to teach Sociology 101, and it frustrates me to no end. The book is a failure in every aspect. Introductory textbooks have to simplify things, of course, but Macionis oversimplifies to the point where my students feel that their intelligence has been insulted, and worst of all, don't realize that the sociological concepts he's talking about are more than simple stereotypes and platitudes. He writes at one point, essentially, that "white people don't understand poverty", while

every college freshmen knows that poor whites do exist, and that the author must be either a racist or an idiot for thinking otherwise. But what does the cultural construct of race have to do with social hierarchy and economics? Macionis doesn't start that conversation, you'll have to do it yourself. And that's the general flaw of the book, Macionis writes chapter after chapter of superficial lists of concepts, theorists, and vocabulary, but never does the real work of laying out key sociological theories in a simple and thorough way, which of course is exactly what a textbook is for. As a teacher, I'm then forced to spend class time laying out the basics that Macionis didn't cover, everything from culture to symbolic interactionism. He'll give a few paragraphs to Weber, Marx, or Freud, but doesn't actually explain them in any coherent way. Some things are completely absent. Macionis doesn't mention some key concepts, like social capital, and doesn't explain at all how sociologists use statistics. With glaring omissions like those, it's obvious that Macionis simply doesn't understand sociology. Finally, the book just isn't organized in any worthwhile way.

Pluses: This book is probably basic information that everyone should know. It's presented pretty clearly. There is even some criticism of sociologists in there - that they can be prone to groupthink. Negatives: What I find frustrating about this book, as opposed to the textbook for Psychology 101, Econ 101, and other social "science" intro courses - is that this one doesn't show enough about sociologists and what they are doing with their knowledge practically. I don't think that examples exist! Show me sociologists who are working on policy - education policy, affirmative action, drafting health inequality. What is the difference between a social worker and psychologist? Isn't that the kind of thing you should know when you take an introductory class in a field? I still cannot answer that question, except I would expect a social worker deals more with local, state, and perhaps federal bureaucracy. Where are the sociologists of this world, mainly? Do they all become social workers and professors? Where do their ideas and research come into play and make a difference in people's lives, besides categorizing and pointing out that this or that indifference or movement happened? This book perpetuates the idea of sociologists as gatherers of data, content to write books that other sociologists read, but not willing to wade into the waters of reality to test any hypotheses about how to reverse a situation. As opposed to psychologists and psychiatrists and economists who must test their ideas in the real world, and face the scorn and contempt of society and try to solve the problems of their field, sociologists don't seem to propose any solutions! At least, not any addressed in this book... They are just commenters on what's happening in the world.

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