

SOCIOLoGY 201:
Social Research Design



4. Objectivity and Reality



Preview

- Review homework
- Reality
- Objectivity/Subjectivity
- Introduction to channelling

Homework Formats



- Write in workbook, tear out
- Type or write on paper
 - Put in the section headings
- email
 - Put in the section headings
- Staple pages together
- *Put your name on the homework!!!*

Review Workbook assignments

*Range = • 0 to 10
points*



2.3: Conflict and Functionalist paradigms in university

- Conflict involves competition, struggle, etc.
- Functionalism deals with how things fit together in whole

What are
some
examples?



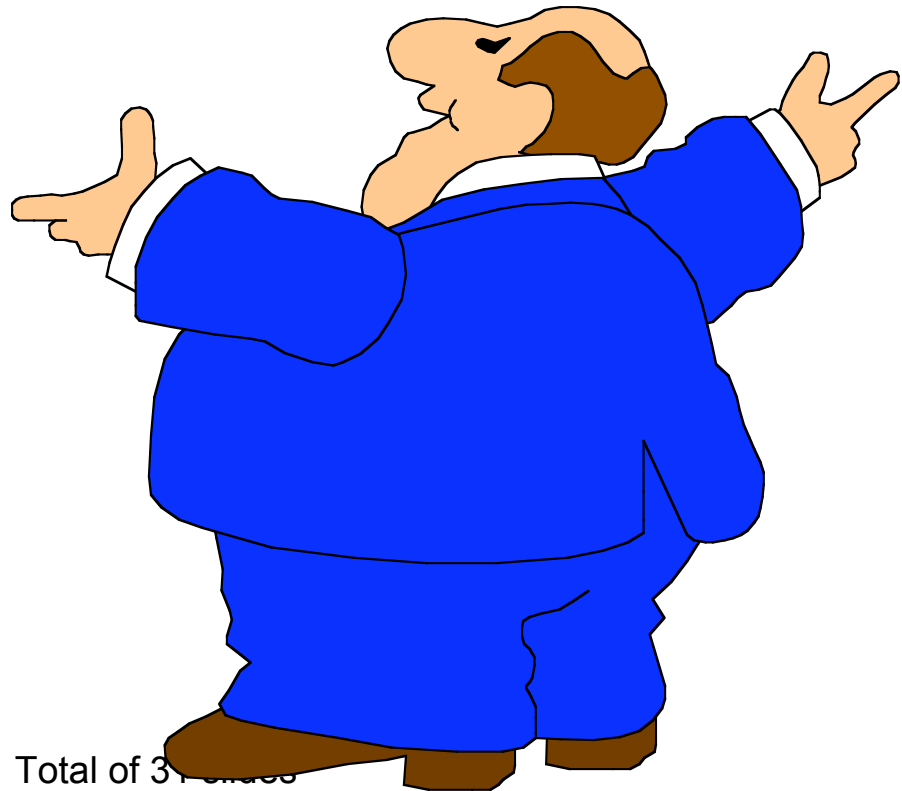
“Lateral Thinking”

Paul Sloane and Des MacHale, *Challenging Lateral Thinking Puzzles*, NY: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1993

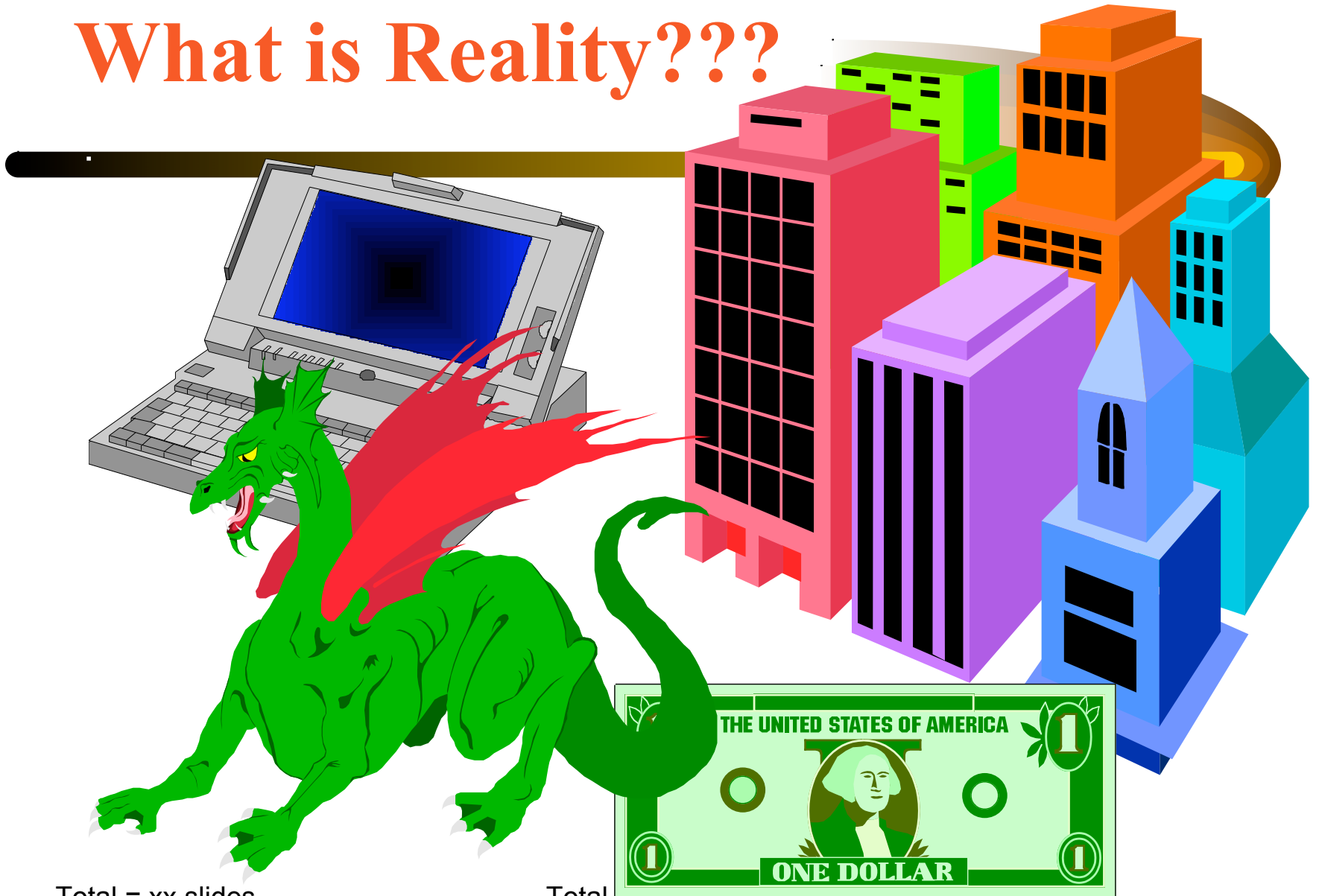
- A manhole is a hole which allows someone to gain access to the sewers or other pipes which are below ground. Our local town council recently decided that all the town's manhole covers should be changed from square to round ones. We are used to the town council making silly decisions, but this time they were absolutely right. Why?
- A man was found shot dead in his study. He was slumped over his desk and a gun was in his hand. There was a cassette recorder on his desk. When the police entered the room and pressed the play button on the tape recorder they heard, "I can't go on. I have nothing to live for." Then there was the sound of a gunshot. How did the detective immediately know that the man had been murdered?
- Is it legal to marry your widow's sister?
- If folk is spelled F O L K and joke is spelled J O K E, how do you spell the word for the white of an egg?
-

And now...

- Our main feature
-



What is Reality???



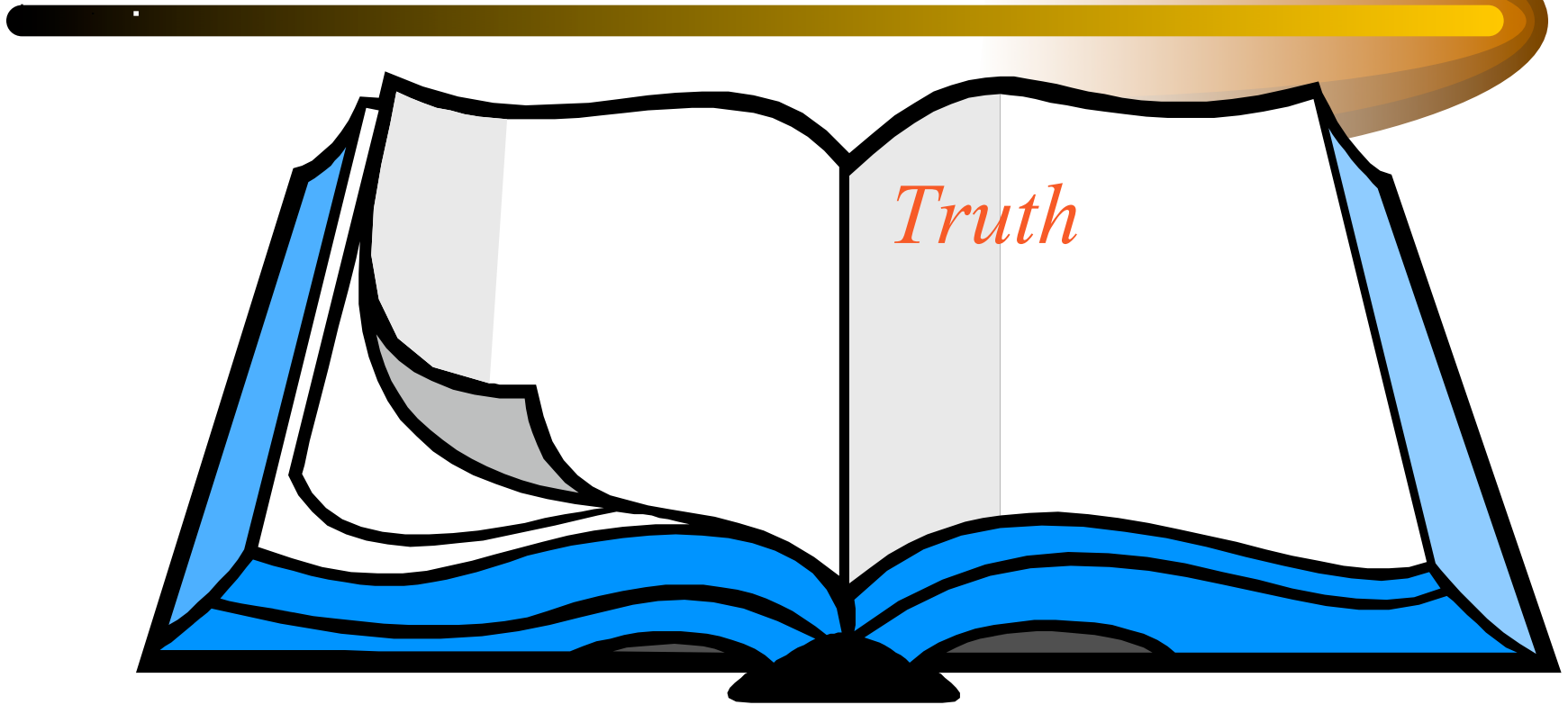
Total = xx slides

Total of 51 slides

One day, I discovered *Truth*



One day, I discovered *Truth*



In a dictionary!

Total = xx slides

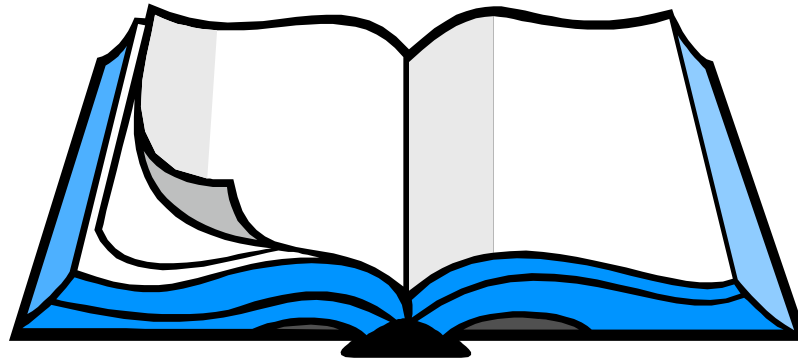
Total of 31 slides

Truth was defined as . . .

- Conformity with **fact**; **agreement** with **reality**
- **Agreement** with a standard or rule; accuracy/ correctness
- Genuineness, **reality**, actual existence
- That which is **true**, **real**, or **actual**; **reality**

True, by the way was. . .

- Consistent with **fact**; **agreeing** with **reality**; representing the thing as it **is**
- Conformable to **reality**; natural
- In accordance with **reality**



So I looked up reality. . .

- The quality of. . .having an **actual existence**
- Correspondence to **fact; truth**
- **Real existence**



And real was. . .

- Having an **objective existence**; **actually existing** as a thing
- **Actually** present or **existing** as a state or quality of things; having a foundation in **fact**; **actually** occurring or happening
- Consisting of **actual** things

So actuality was. . .

- The state of being **actual** or **real**; **reality**, **existing objective fact**.
- And “**actual**” was. . .
 - **Existing** in **act** or **fact**; **really acted** or **acting**; **carried out**; **real**

So maybe factual holds the key

- Pertaining to or concerned with **facts**; of the nature of **fact**, **actual**, **real**
- **Fact** was no better. . .
 - Something that has **really** occurred or is **actually** the case
 - **Truth** attested by direct observation or authentic testimony; **reality**

Maybe existence is the answer.



- Yeah, right.
- **Existence** is. . .
 - **Actuality**; **reality**
 - **Being**; the fact or state of **existing**
- **Exist** was defined as. . .
 - To have place in the domain of **reality**, having **objective being**.

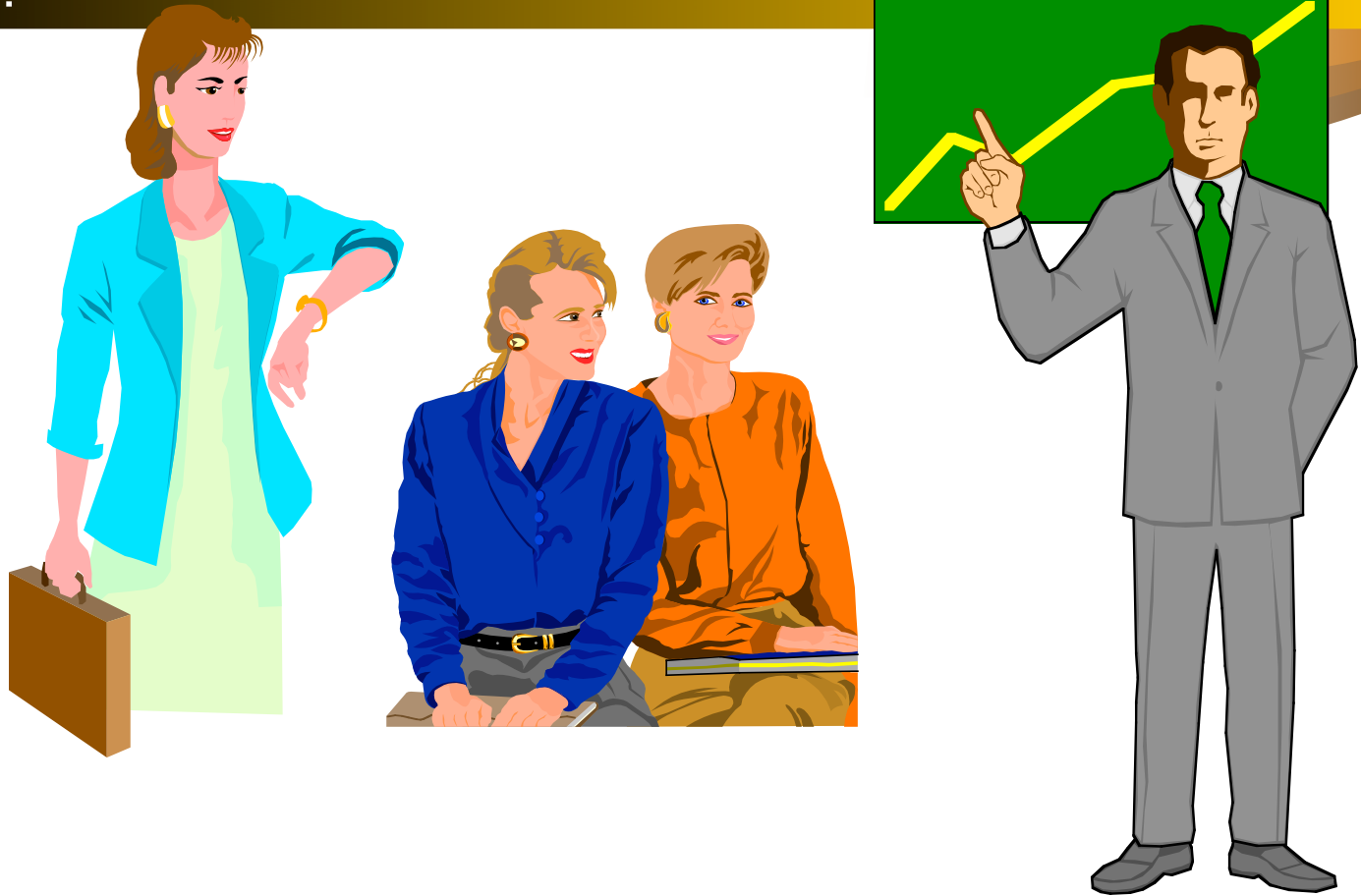
In abbreviated review:

- **Truth** is “That which is real; **reality**”
- **Reality** is “Having an actual **existence**”
- **Existence** is “**Actuality**; reality”
- **Actuality** is “Existing objective **fact**”
- **Fact** is “**Truth** attested to by direct observation”
- Ergo: **Truth** is **Truth**

Considering all the definitions

- 90% were lost in the circularity of language
- One word escaped that circularity:
 - *objectivity*
 - How would you define *objectivity*?
- The dictionary defined it as:
 - *intersubjectivity*
 - What does that mean?

Subjectivity



Total = xx slides

Total of 31 slides

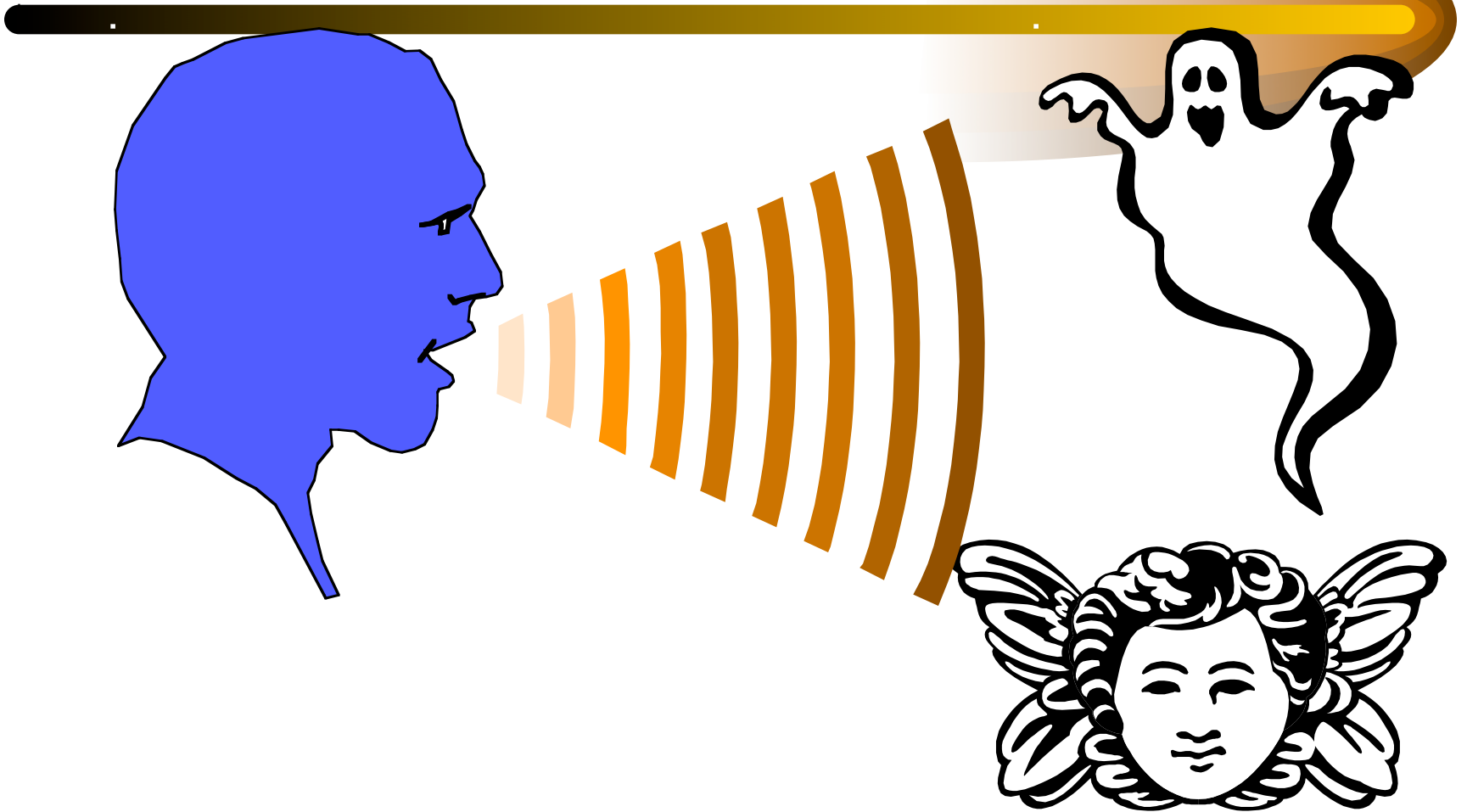
Objectivity means. . .



- We **agree** on the way things are.
- In this sense, sociologists speak of the “social construction of reality.”
- We’ll come back to this later in the course in a discussion of “postmodernism.”

INTRODUCTION TO FRANCE

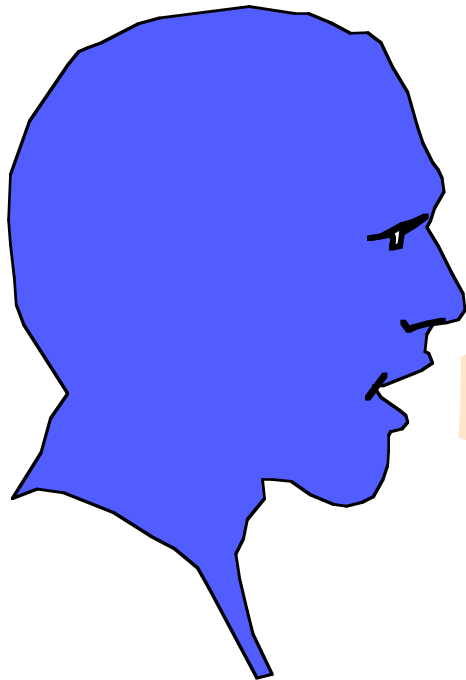
Channeling



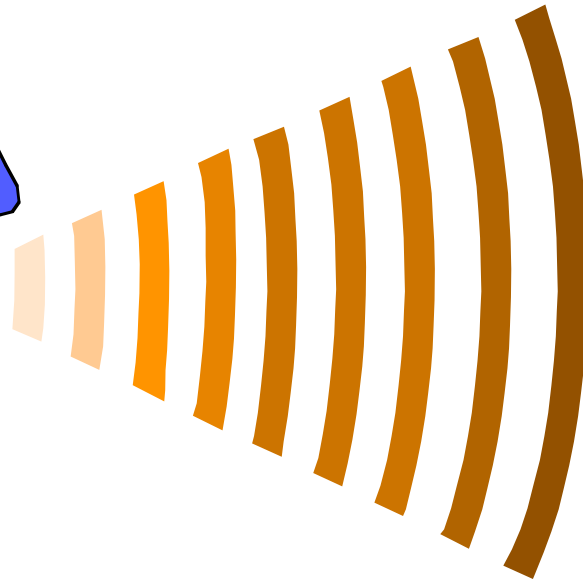
Total = xx slides

Total of 31 slides

Group work: Evaluate feelings about entities



Total = xx slides



Total of 31 slides

- Do you think they are real?
- Are they what they say they are?
- How do you know?

"Curse of sociology"



Total = xx slides

Total of 31 slides

Preview homework



Total = xx slides

Total of 31 slides

3.3 Two examples of cause-effect relationships in everyday life

- Should find **different** explanations for the **same** observation
- e.g., Men who join fraternities drink a lot
- Assume fraternity culture promotes drinking
- But maybe those who drink join fraternities
– (reverse time order)

3.3 Two examples of cause-effect relationships in everyday life

- e.g., Women shop for clothes on Presidents' Day since they are on sale
- Actually, it's because the women are off work
 - (different reason)
-

3.3 Two examples of cause-effect relationships in everyday life

- e.g., Drug users commit more crimes because they need the money for drugs.
- Maybe drugs incapacitate them so they get caught
- Maybe police target drug users
-
-

Next Time



- “Paradigms and Paradigm Shifts ”
- Read Chapter 3