4. Objectivity and Reality
• 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”


• 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

Total = xx slides
Total of 31 slides
What is Reality???
One day, I discovered *Truth*
One day, I discovered Truth

In a dictionary!
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?
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 Trance

Channeling
Group work: Evaluate feelings about entities

- Do you think they are real?
- Are they what they say they are?
- How do you know?
"Curse of sociology"
Preview homework
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