TC Sociology - Final Reflection

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Introduction to Sociology

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Introduction

TC Sociology (Soc) wasn't my top pick; it landed on my schedule because I needed it for my BTC degree. Yet, as the semester rolled on, it surprisingly became my third-favorite class. Soc turned out to be more than I expected, giving me a deep dive into how societies function and how people, including myself, fit into the picture. Two topics, Media and Technology, and Gender, Sex, and Sexuality, caught my attention.

Media and Technology aren't just theoretical concepts for me; they seem poised to shape my future career in Full-stack development. The course delves into how advancements in technology impact society. It's not just about coding; it's about understanding the ripple effects of innovation. On a personal level, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality hit close to home as an LGBTQ+ individual. Soc has helped me understand these concepts beyond the textbook definitions. It explores how societal norms and attitudes toward gender and sexuality play out in real life, connecting them to my daily experiences.

As I reflect, my goal is to dig into how Soc has impacted my views and plans. What started as a mandatory class is now a surprising source of insights, influencing both how I see the world and where I see myself heading. Soc, once just a degree requirement, is turning out to be more relevant—a peek into the inner workings of society and a guide for my future steps.

Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality have become fundamental aspects shaping my daily experiences and future living plans. These concepts extend beyond theoretical musings; they intricately contribute to my identity. In our sociological exploration, the course takes a basic approach, initiating discussions by distinguishing between biological sex and gender identity, laying the foundation for a deeper understanding.

Moving beyond introductory definitions, the course unfolds into a nuanced exploration of bigotry and discrimination. It goes beyond the surface, providing profound insights into the global challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community. The focal point on the disparities in laws and regulations on same-sex

relationships worldwide has tangible implications as I contemplate my plans beyond the U.S. This

sociological perspective prompts a thoughtful consideration of the environments in which I envision my

future, adding a layer of practicality to my personal reflections.

Transitioning to my Full-stack development career, where Media and Technology seem more

directly applicable, the reality remains that my LGBTQ+ identity is an ever-present consideration. While

the technical facets of my profession may not inherently involve discussions of Gender, Sex, and

Sexuality, the awareness of potential discrimination based on my sexuality and gender identity is a

constant companion. The textbook, functioning as a practical guide, brings attention to the subtleties of

silent discrimination persisting despite apparent legislative progress. This is not limited to the U.S.; even

with significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights, discrimination continues, influencing workplace dynamics and

societal attitudes.

Understanding this reality equips me not only to navigate historical struggles but also to engage in

the ongoing discourse, especially in countries like the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, where

legal consequences for same-sex acts are deadly. (Griffiths et al., 2020) This knowledge serves as a

compass influencing my choices of where to live and work. Countries renowned for their progressive

stances on LGBTQ+ rights, such as Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand, naturally emerge as

preferred destinations. In contrast, places with outdated same-sex relationship laws prompt a

reconsideration. The course, extending beyond academic exploration, actively shapes my considerations

for the future—guiding my choices in a world where acceptance and legal protections for the LGBTQ+

community vary widely.

Media and Technology

Media and Technology as a concept is also consistently present in my life, if not more present

than Gender, Sex, and Sexuality. In the realm of my daily life and as a dedicated student in Web Software

Development, Media and Technology have seamlessly integrated into my routine, significantly

influencing the way I interact with information and technology. Through the lens of sociology, the course

has provided me with practical insights that find direct applications in my everyday experiences.

       As I navigate the vast landscape of media, the sociological perspective gained from the course has

transformed how I approach and interpret information. Recognizing the concentration of media ownership

in a few powerful corporations, I've become more determined to seek diverse viewpoints and understand

the implications of media consolidation and its impact on societal narratives (Griffiths et al., 2020).

       Moreover, the course has shed light on the intricacies of advertising, unravelling the motives and

strategies employed by advertisers. Armed with this knowledge, I've transitioned into a more informed

consumer, capable of deciphering the underlying messages and intentions behind promotional content.

This skill not only makes me a more conscious internet user but also reflects my ability to engage with

media in a way that extends beyond surface-level messages.

       In the technological sphere, particularly as I embark on a career path as a Web Software

Developer, the course's sociological insights have increased my awareness of the ethical dimensions of

technology. I now perceive technology as a powerful force that can either exacerbate or alleviate social

disparities. This realization motivates me to advocate for designs and solutions that prioritize accessibility,

ensuring that the digital innovations I contribute to are inclusive and considerate of diverse user needs.

       Within the realm of education, sociology acts as a valuable tool that transforms how I perceive

technology. It goes beyond a mere technical tool and becomes a dynamic force influencing society. This

dual perspective equips me to face the challenges of Web Software Development, blending sociological

insights with technical expertise for a comprehensive understanding of the digital world. Through this

interdisciplinary approach, I am better prepared to navigate the evolving landscape of technology,

ensuring that my contributions align with societal needs and values.

Finale

       When it comes to the textbook itself, I think it perfectly encapsulates the ideas of Media and

Technology and Gender, Sex, and Sexuality. While there weren't any true disagreements I had with the

textbook, there are sections in the Gender, Sex, and Sexuality part that I wish they would have touched

on. While I understand the book wants to primarily focus on sociological concepts, I wish it had outlined

the history of the LGBTQ+ and the impact of that history on the United States, especially the Stonewall

riots and those involved (specifically Marsha P. Johnson) and how those early riots began the openness

and, by proxy, bigotry that affects America today. This can be tied sociologically to the impact on

modern-day members of the LGBTQ+ community and how allyship has both evolved and devolved in

present-day America.

TC Sociology has been instrumental in shaping my understanding of sociological ideas that

directly impact my life and future. The exploration of Media and Technology aligns seamlessly with my

pursuit of becoming a Web Software Developer. The course has instilled in me a critical awareness of the

societal implications of technology, urging me to contribute to leaving the internet a better place than I

found it. On the other hand, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality, though not directly tied to my future career, hold

significant relevance in my daily experiences. As an LGBTQ+ individual, the course has provided

nuanced insights, preparing me to navigate real-life challenges and discrimination. This sociological lens

serves as a practical guide, influencing my choices in a world where societal acceptance varies widely,

especially in countries with severe legal consequences for same-sex acts. In essence, TC Sociology has

not only expanded my academic horizons but actively guided my personal and professional

considerations.

Works Cited:

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