**Structural Functionalism**

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**Fill in the Blanks**

**What kind of theory is it?**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What does it attempt to explain?**

* How a society is organized to perform its required \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effectively.

**What are some main areas of focus?**

* How the structures function within society.
* Examines the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that individuals play within an institution such as a family.
* Functionalists make observations about role behaviour and determine the rates at which various behaviours occur.

**Basic Concepts or Principles**

* Everything and everyone in society has a ROLE (a function) that makes society run \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Assumes that societies are stable when structures function in ways that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ society.
* Change can occur if the structures are able to adjust to maintain equilibrium in the society, but change will happen slowly.
* Societies run more smoothly when each individual behaves according to his or her specific role.
* Individuals learn the appropriate behaviour for the many roles they will play in society through the process of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Common/bolded terms**

* **Function:** the different parts of each society contribute positively to the operation or functioning of a system as a whole.
* **Institutions**: structures such as laws, the political system, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Interdependence:** the interdependence of the different parts of society are necessary to the smooth operation of society as a whole.
* **Macro Study:** a large-scale study of patterns of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within a society.
* **Status:** a specific position within a social group.
* **Role:** the set of behaviours that an individual is expected to demonstrate within a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **Norm:** most consistent behaviour within a society.

**Key Theorists**

* Emile Durkheim: one of the original and traditional sociologists who dealt heavily with Organic Solidarity – a type of functionalism.
* Talcott Parsons: Contemporary sociologist/functionalist.

**Limitations/Criticisms**

* Puts males and females into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ roles regardless of individual differences.
* Families from different social classes’ situations are ignored.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within the family are also ignored.
* Viewed change as negative/disruptive.
* Tendency for functionalists to go beyond explaining how a society is organized to prescribing how individuals within a society should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.