

*** Introduction to the Social Sciences**

anthropology
psychology
sociology

***The social sciences**

*essentially are all about the study and analysis of human behaviour

they include **many** many different **disciplines** or branches or study

such as...economics, political science, history, geography, family studies, human geography...

*Social scientists seek to understand human experiences, they are interested in people, and they examine



***Social Scientists**

***Society is dynamic not static!**

These changes create challenges for society that need to be addressed...

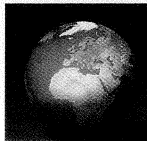


***Change is challenging**

OR

***Challenges require change**

***What's up with Anthropology?**



***Anthropology has 4 main branches:**

*studying evolution, genetic inheritance, human adaptability and variation, primatology (apes), the fossil record of human evolution & forensics



Cultural Anthropology

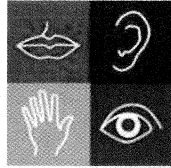


Borat the Cultural Anthropologist NOT!



⦿ Archaeology

studies the role of language in community, national, and cross-cultural interactions. It is concerned with the social and cultural factors that underlie people's use of language to share information and shape cultures and community life.



* how anthropologists conduct their field work...

- * **archaeology**
- * **dna and forensic testing**
- * **ethnology**
- * **collection of statistics**
- * **field interviews**
- * **ethnography**
- * **participation-observation**



* Dian Fossey

She was an advocate for the gorillas who were being killed by poachers for their heads and hands. She was murdered in her cabin at Karisoke on December 26, 1985. Her death is a mystery yet unsolved.~

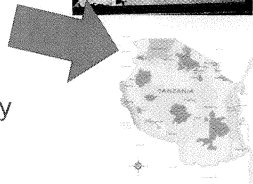
*Jane Goodall

*Studied chimpanzees and also lived with them for over 45 years off and on in the wild



*Mary & Louis Leaky

*Their finds at Olduvai Gorge, a site in north western Tanzania, when added to the work of others, convinced most paleoanthropologists that humans originally evolved in Africa.



*Franz Boas

*Originally from Germany, Boas travelled to Canada in the late 1800s to study the indigenous people here

*He introduced the idea of not judging cultures as less than our own - which is anti ethnocentrism



*Anthropology & Social Change

*Anthropologists contribute to the understanding of social change by examining the past and present cultures around the world.

*They have detailed the evolutions of different cultures.

*Study how change comes about in groups - what factors have effected change ...external or internal, accidental or intentional, good or bad

*External factors include diffusion, acculturation & directed change

Anthropologists consider roughly 30 countries to be “developed” and 180 to be “developing”



*Anthropological “Schools of Thought”...

*Functionalism

*Cultural Materialism

*Functionalism

*all cultures are set up to deal with the same problems that human groups around the world face meeting physical or psychological needs

*every **custom** or **practice** in a culture serves a purpose or **function**

*the culture **functions** in the best interest of the **majority** (laws, practices and customs)

*strive to understand different practices rather than judge or criticize them



ethnocentrism

*Cultural Materialism

*The different types of technology and economics determine or help to shape the type of society that develops

*there are three main levels of structures that exist in all cultures

1. infrastructures [methods of producing goods and services, and methods of reproduction] **material stuff** structures
2. [domestic economy and politics] social classes & the **distribution of wealth /laws /families**
3. superstructures [behaviours] **music/ art/recreation/ religion, values***
