

Synopsis

For thirty-five years and through thirteen editions, Jim Henslin's *Down to Earth Sociology* has opened new windows onto the social realities that shape our world. Now in its fourteenth edition, the most popular anthology in sociology includes new articles on our changing world while also retaining its classic must-read essays. Focusing on social interaction in everyday life, the forty-six selections bring students face-to-face with the twin projects of contemporary sociology: understanding the individual's experience of society and analyzing social structure. The fourteenth edition's exceptional new readings include selections on the role of sympathy in everyday life, mistaken perceptions of the American family, the effects of a criminal record on getting a job, and the major social trends affecting our future. Together with these essential new articles, the selections by Peter Berger, Herbert Gans, Erving Goffman, Donna Eder, Zella Luria, C. Wright Mills, Deborah Tannen, Barrie Thorne, Sidney Katz, Philip Zimbardo, and many others provide firsthand reporting that gives students a sense of "being there." Henslin also explains basic methods of social research, providing insight into how sociologists explore the social world. The selections in *Down to Earth Sociology* highlight the most significant themes of contemporary sociology, ranging from the sociology of gender, power, politics, and religion to the contemporary crises of racial tension, crime, rape, poverty, and homelessness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No matter if you're studying sociology or just have an interest in how people think, this book will intrigue you. I bought it for class and expected a boring textbook. Instead I am finding it well worth

reading and I especially like how it relates to how everyday people think, not just people in studying sociology.

Who would have thought a text book would have turned out to be such a captivating read? Down to Earth is divided into many rather short chapters of a dozen, or so, pages. Each introduces a new topic that whets one's appetite for more. Each chapter is written by an authority. Topics range from Barbara Ehrenreich's account of her struggle to survive for a year in a minimum wage job to a discussion of life in the goon squad atmosphere of a modern, militarized police department. College fraternity rape parties are taken up as are the methods used to turn an eighteen year old boy into a marine capable of ignoring the moral teachings of his youth. I think I am rather well informed about the realities of life in the empire; but, this book had a lot to say to me. A better bibliography dealing with further references to each topic would be desirable.

At first I was like "NO.... not another required reading for my class!", but after reading a few of the articles in this book, I decided that this one I'm actually going to keep. If you're reading this review, you probably have no choice whether to buy it, as this book would be for your college class, but make sure to read through all the stories, it's worth the time!

Too often when you read a textbook it can be very dry and boring. That is not the case with this book. It is easy to read and there are a lot of great case studies to review. Very informative. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about sociology.

I bought this book for my Sociology class and ended up enjoying almost every article I read in it. This is the book that made me change my major to Sociology. I highly recommend this for anybody even slightly interested in the subject.

I bought this book for a sociology class that I took, and I found it to be very engaging. I learned a lot from this book, and I highly recommend it. I would even read this on its own and not just for a class.

I had to buy this as supplemental text for my sociology class. It is surprisingly interesting for sociology (a class I do not usually like) and the stories are easy to read. The only reason I gave it a three was that I found it was very biased at times.

Very interesting! Im a student and I've learned so much from it. I recommend it to anyone who wants to learn more about our society.

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