- **Profane**: the ordinary, mundane or everyday

- **Collective Effervescence**: an intense energy in shared events where people feel swept up in something larger than themselves

- **Collective Conscience**: the shared morals and beliefs that are common to a group and which foster solidarity

- **Empirical**: based on scientific observation and experimentation

- **Structure**: A social institution that is relatively stable over time and that meets the needs of society by performing functions necessary to maintain social order and stability

- **Dysfunction**: a disturbance to or undesirable consequence of some aspect of the social system

- **Manifest Functions**: the obvious intended function of a social structure for the social system

- **Latent Functions**: the less obvious, perhaps unintended functions of a social structure

- **Conflict Theory**: a paradigm that sees social conflict as the basis for society and social change, and emphasizes a materialistic view of society, a critical view of the statue quo, and a dynamic model of historical change

- **Social Inequality**: the unequal distribution of wealth, power or prestige among members of a society

- **Communism**: a political system based on the collective ownership of the means of production, as opposed to communism

- **Conflict**: generated by the conflict amongst different class groups for scarce resources and the source of all social change, according to Karl Marx

- **Capitalism**: an economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and characterized by competition, the profit motive, and wage labor

- **Means of production**: anything that can create wealth: money, property, factories, and other types of businesses, and the infrastructure necessary to run them

- **Proletariat**: workers; those who have no means of production of their own and so are reduced to selling their labor power in order to live

- **Bourgeoisie**: owners; the class of modern capitalists who own the means of production and employ wage laborers

- **Alienation**: the sense of dissatisfaction the modern laborer feels as a result of producing goods that are owned and controlled by someone else, according to Karl Marx

- **Socialism**: a political system based on state ownership or control of principle elements of the economy in order to reduce levels of social inequality

- **Ideology**: a system of beliefs, attitudes and values that directs a society and reproduces the status quo of the Bourgeoisie

- **False Consciousness**: a denial of the truth on the part of the oppressed when they fail to recognize the interests of the ruling class in their ideology

- **Class Consciousness**: the recognition of social inequality on the part of the oppressed, leading to revolutionary action

- **Dialectical Model**: Karl Marx’s model of historical change, whereby by two extreme positions come into conflict and create some type of new third thing between them