Durkheim Suicide: Case Studies

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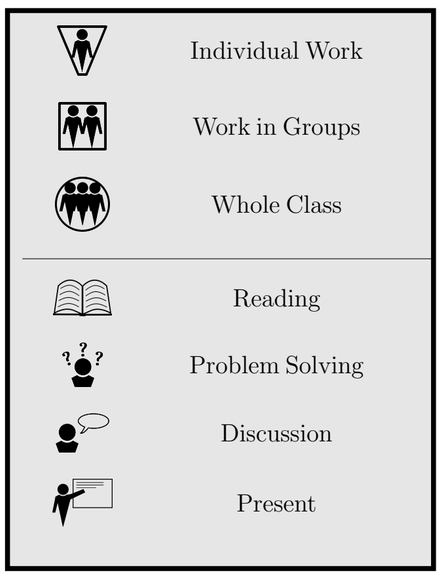

In Class (Instructor) | **In Class (Students)** | **Out of Class**

Begin Here.

The instructor presents the 4 kinds of suicide (anomic, fatalistic, egoistic, and altruistic) posited by Durkheim (a theoretical functionalist).

As a class, students discuss contemporary equivalent examples to the ones given by Durkheim on each kind of suicide in 1838.

Students read two accounts of suicide: one about soldiers (during war and during peacetime) and the second about first nation communities (both on and off the reserve)

As a group, the students prepare a argument and fill in the chart relating to each of the four cases presented in the reading and have a discussion about how they categorized them according to Durkheim and whether it is relevant/useful approach suicide from the perspective of societal integration.

As a group, students then try to identify the implied solution from Durkheim's societal integration perspective to each kind of suicide in the case studies (ex. having strong social institutions such as residential schools).

Instructor then asks the students to switch theoretical perspectives from functionalism to conflict theory and apply it to the case of suicide

As a group, students then view these cases studies from a conflict theory perspective.

Students then have a discussion to compare and contrast the implied solutions for each of two macro level perspectives.