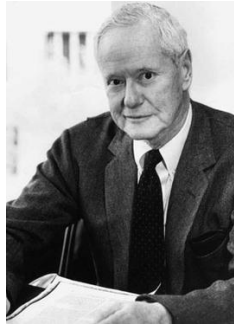
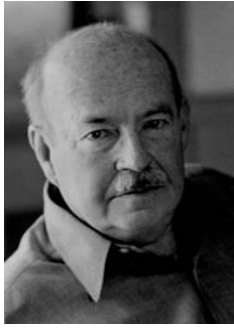


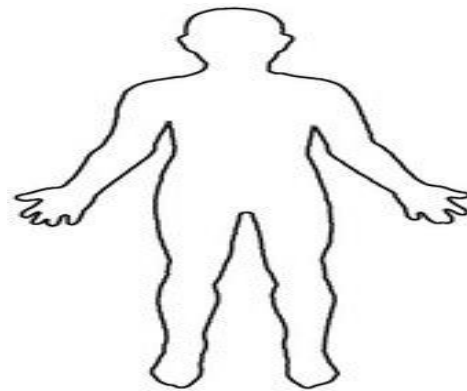
Functionalism



Key Functionalists include: Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons and Robert K Merton

Functionalism is one of the 'grand narratives' of society and the oldest attempt to understand how society might influence social behaviours

They suggest that society is structured through **norms and values** that people are socialised into. This help to develop a **value consensus**, or shared agreement on the rules of society.



Functionalism relies upon Social institutions to perform **primary or secondary socialisation** in order to allow the next generation of society to learn the value consensus

Functionalists also suggest that these institutions provide members with functional pre-requisites, the basic needs of society, such as food and shelter

Functionalists suggest that society operates in a similar manner to the human body with each organ or institution performing vital functions.