The Chicago School
Modern American Perspective of Sociology
Applying Sociology

• The Chicago School of Sociology
  • Refers to the contributions of Sociologist from the University of Chicago in the late 1800s/early 1900s
  • Felt that Sociology should be used to address social problems
    • Treated the city as a social laboratory
    • Focused on Urban Sociology

Jane Addams map of wages by housing blocks
The Chicago School Focus

• Sociologists felt that the study of society should include practical solutions to identified social problems
  • As opposed to just studying the philosophy of society, the Chicago School pushes for reform based off observation and data collection
    • Focused on issues such as race, immigration, urban decay
Chicago School Sociologists

Jane Addams
• Surveyed the struggles of the urban poor and immigrants in Chicago
  • Opened a settlement house
  • Initiated programs to address things like poor working conditions, malnutrition, low wages, poor sanitation

W.E.B. Du Bois
• Used principles of Chicago School to examine communities
• Stressed the importance of examining race issues in America
  • Called for Sociologists to be involved in Urban Reform