

Sociological Theories of Happiness

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March 12 and 19, 2009

For more information go to: www2.bc.edu/~calvobra/teaching.htm

Disciplinary Objections

- **Pragmatic**

- Social problems
- Social behavior
- Collectivities

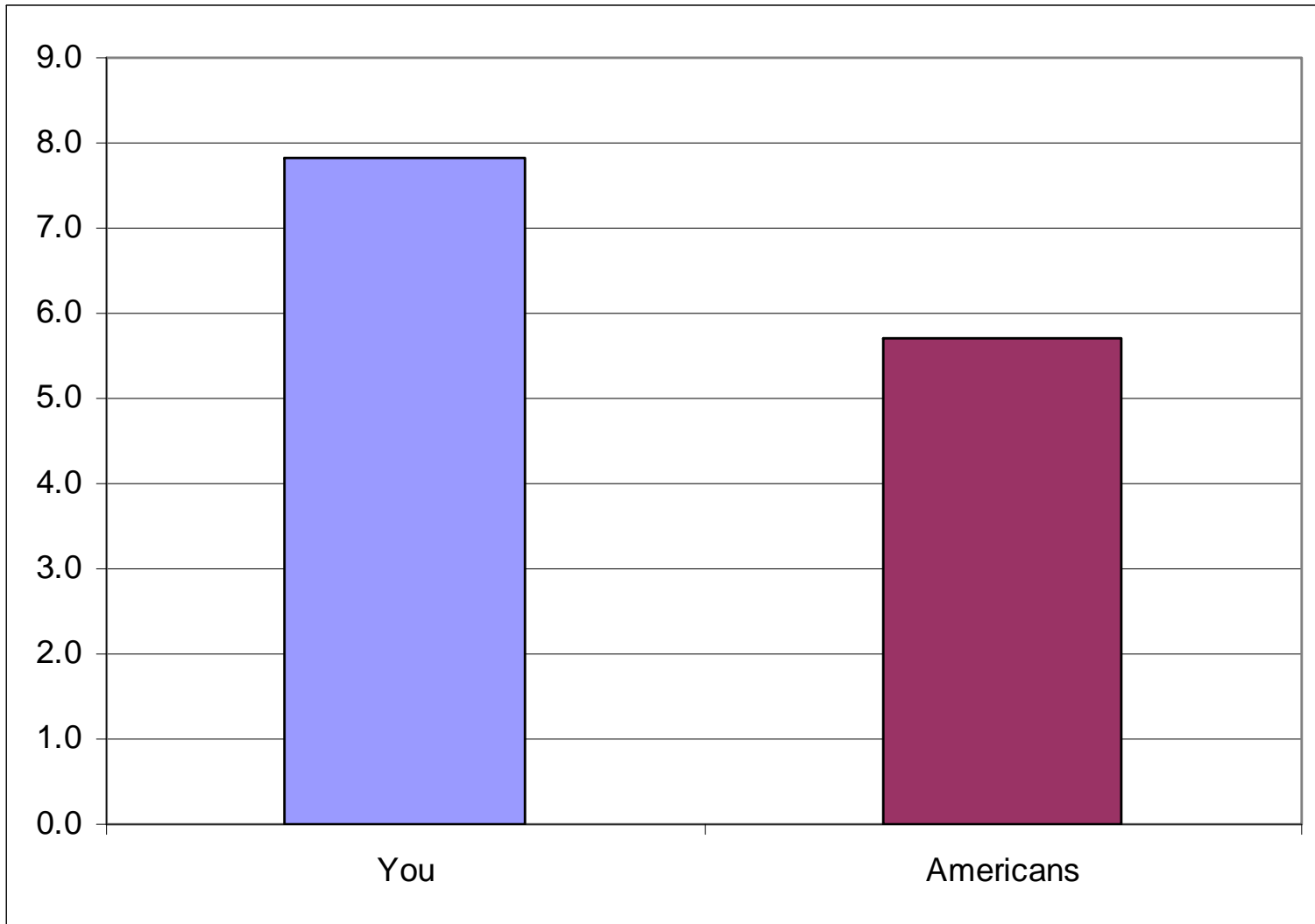
- **Ideological**

- Objective well-being
- Discrepancies are an error

- **Theoretical**

- Social comparison
 - Social construction
- 

Comparing happiness



Social comparison: equal huts




Social comparison: equal houses



Social comparison: unequal neighborhood



Sociological Theories of Human Emotions

- **Dramaturgical**: actors engage in strategic dramatic presentations directed a cultural script.
 - **Symbolic Interactionist**: control strategies to confirm self.
 - **Interaction Ritual**: face-to-face encounters.
 - **Power and Status**: relative level of, changes in, and expectations for power and status.
 - **Exchange**: payoffs, costs, investments, and standards of justice.
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