

Federation Theory Examination

Federated Ph.D. Sociology Program
Texas Woman's University
University of North Texas

August 24, 2000

BEFORE BEGINNING:

Read through the questions and instructions so that you may make wise use of your choices and time.

Try to focus on the intent of the questions and approach them as comprehensively as time allows.

You will have until 5:00 p.m. to complete the examination. You should spend approximately half of your time on Parts I and II, page one (two questions), and half of your time on Part III, pages one and two (three questions). The questions of Part III are intended to be more focused and topically limited.

PLEASE DOUBLE-SPACE YOUR ANSWERS. THE BEGINNING OF EACH ANSWER SHOULD START AT THE TOP OF A NEW PAGE AND BE CLEARLY NUMERED.

Do not put your name on your paper. Use your assigned number which is _____.

Fall 2000

Part I. Broad Perspective Comparisons

- I. 1. Compare the views of three of the following authors: Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, Weber, on one of the following: the nature of social change or the role of religion in society.
- I. 2. Discuss the impact and continuing relevance of one of the following classical works on sociological theory and practice: Weber's Protestant Ethic, Durkheim's Elementary Forms of Religious Life, Marx's Capital.
- I. 3. Compare stratification theory in the works of two of the following Marx, Weber, Davis and Moore, Parsons, Dahrendorf, Bourdieu.

Part II. History and Development of Thought. Choose one.

- II. 4. What, in your opinion, is the important legacy of early U.S. sociology to sociological theory? Justify your answer by using the works of specific theorists.
- II. 5. Trace one of the following contemporary theories to its predecessors in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century: Structural Functionalism, Ethnomethodology, Postmodern Sociology, and Critical Sociology.
- II. 6. How did 19th century evolutionary theory influence sociological theory? Use specific examples to support your argument.

Part III. Short Answer. Choose three.

- III. 7. What do you think is the most dominant school of theory in U.S. sociology today? Cite examples of works from two substantive areas that support your position.
- III. 8. Compare Marx's concepts of base and superstructure with Habermas' system and lifeworld.
- III. 9. Briefly describe rational choice theory, citing at least two major authors on the subject.
- III. 10. Compare and contrast Coser and Dahrendorf's treatments of the causes and consequences of social conflict.
- III. 11. Describe the influence of Weber on the Frankfurt School, citing at least one specific example.
- III. 12. Critically analyze how one of the following social theorists has treated the concept of culture in his work: Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Parsons, Habermas, Simmel.
- III. 13. How has sociological theory dealt with the role of ethnicity in social life?

- III. 14. What is the contribution of the work of George Homans to sociological theory?
- III. 15. Summarize Merton's discussion of middle range theories.
- III. 16. What is innovative about the Giddens' theory of structuration?
- III. 17. What is Sociobiology? Give an example of the theory.
- III. 18. How does Herbert Blumer define the term Symbolic Interactionism?
- III. 19. What is Dorothy Smith's contribution to the sociology of knowledge?
- III. 20. According to Weber what is the relationship between substantive and formal rationality in modern societies?
- III. 21. Briefly summarize the postmodernist critique of sociological theory. What are some of the limitations to postmodern social theorizing according to its critics?
- III. 22. Describe Parsons' four-function paradigm (AGIL).
- III. 23. What does C. Wright Mills have to say about "grand theory" in the Sociological Imagination? What type of sociology does he advocate?
- III. 24. Briefly describe a contribution of a Non-Western Sociologist to Sociological Theory.
- III. 25. In what ways does Goffman's Frame Analysis depart from his earlier work?
- III. 26. Apply your favorite sociological theory to the analysis of a current social problem.
- III. 27. Explain Bourdieu's theory of social reproduction and habitus.