

Federation Theory Examination

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

August 16, 2001
Fall 2001

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 NUMBERED.

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

Fall 2001

Part I. Broad Perspective. Choose one.

I. 1. Discuss the influence of Weber on at least two contemporary sociological theories: phenomenological sociology, conflict sociology, rational choice/exchange, structuration, symbolic interactionism, critical sociology, structural functionalism.

I. 2. Compare the theories of historical transformation of society in the work of two classical sociologists.

I. 3. Compare Marx, Durkheim, and Weber's explanations of the nature of industrial society.

I. 4. Discuss and compare the work of an early and a contemporary proponent of one of the following schools of thought: conflict theories, feminist sociology, symbolic interactionism, structural functionalism.

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

II. 5. Discuss the impact of 18th century major historical events on the emergence of sociology in the 19th century.

II. 6. Document the influence of Marx on two 20th century sociologists, citing specific examples from the works of each.

II. 7. Discuss the change over time in meaning and usage of one of the following concepts or ideas:

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| community | capital |
| social contract | solidarity |
| class | action |

II. 8. Examine the view that there is a significant difference between the writings of one of the following:

- the young and the mature Marx
- the young and the mature Comte
- the young and the mature Durkheim

Part III. Short Answer. Choose three.

III. 9. Discuss the theoretical treatment of social or cultural capital across gender and racial/ethnic groups from the perspective of one contemporary theorist.

- III. ñ 10. Discuss the use of the concept of honor in one of the following:
Max Weber Adam Smith
Karl Marx Simmel
- III. 11. Discuss the concept of deviance in the works of two of the following:
Erving Goffman, Howard Becker, and Edwin Lemert
- III. 12. From a historical critical perspective, discuss the idea that the sociological canon is Eurocentric, patriarchal, or patrilineal.
- III. 13. Explain one attempt to integrate macro and micro approaches to the study of society, citing the works of at least one theorist.
- III. 14. Select one substantive area of sociology and briefly explain how theory has been used to orient research in that area.
- III. 15. Explain how Giddens uses ideas from Schutz or Goffman to develop his theory of structuration.
- III. 16. Identify Parsons' AGIL scheme and connect its elements to specific sub systems.
- III. 17. Briefly discuss Tonnie's dichotomy between *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft*.
- III. 18. Briefly discuss Giddens' concept of duality of structure.
- III. 19. Compare and contrast Bourdieu's notion of habitus with Marx's praxis.
- III. 20. Briefly explain Goffman's concept of frame analysis
- III. 21. Discuss a contribution of a minority and/or female sociologist to sociological theory apart from theories related to race, class, and gender.
- III. 22. Explain Simmel's use of the concept of "stranger".
- III. 23. Discuss a feminist contribution to one of the following sociological debates: Ethnomethodology, Parsonian Sociology, Theories of Development, Postmodernism.
- III. 24. Describe a postmodern approach to sociological theory.

- III. 25. Discuss Merton's critique of classical functionalism.
- III. 26. Summarize Dahrendor's theory of social conflict. Note either the Marxian or Weberian influences on his work.
- III. 27. Discuss Herbert Blumer's concept of "Symbolic Interactionism."
- III. 28. Explain (without criticism) the theory of Sociobiology.