

Federation Theory Examination

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

August 15, 2002

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 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, page 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 _____.

Part I. Broad Perspective. Choose one.

- I.-1. Pick two substantive fields of sociology and, citing at least three sources for each field, describe how theory is currently being used to direct research.
- I.-2. Compare and contrast a general classical sociological theory (Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber) with a contemporary grand sociological theory (Parsons, Sorokin, Alexander, Giddens, Habermas, Bourdieu).
- I.-3. Discuss the theoretical work of a major sociologist in terms of four of the following:
 - a. Scope of theory (capability of subsuming lower-level propositions)
 - b. Parsimony (few assumptions and variables)
 - c. Fecundity (capacity to generate hypotheses)
 - d. Systemization (interrelated concepts and propositions)
 - e. Verifiability (testable and capable of being supported)
 - f. Prediction

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

- II.-4. Trace the idea of Progress and its development in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- II.-5. Discuss the historical development of the empirical and theoretical treatment of social class in U. S. sociology.
- II.-6. What is your preferred approach to sociological theory? Trace its historical development and explain why you believe it is a superior theoretical approach to the study of society.
- II.-7. Identify the social conditions that influenced the development of classical sociological theory (1880s-1920s).

Part III. Short Answer. Choose three.

- III.-8. Identify and discuss elements of the sociology of culture in at least one classical and one contemporary theory.
- III.-9. Discuss the importance of one American sociologist who was associated with the Chicago School.
- III.-10. Briefly discuss Comte's theological, metaphysical and positive stages.
- III.-11. Briefly compare Spencer's militant and industrial society.
- III.-12. Define and briefly discuss Pareto's ideas of residues and derivations.
- III.-13. Define and briefly discuss Giddens' idea of structuration.
- III.-14. Identify and explain Dahrendorf's primary contribution to sociology's understanding and approach to social conflict.
- III.-15. According to Durkheim, what are two of the primary characteristics of social facts?
- III.-16. Explain one of the following: emotional work, gender stretch, reproduction exploitation.
- III.-17. Briefly explain how the concepts of Social System, Cultural System, and Personality System interact in the work of Talcott Parsons.
- III.-18. Discuss the significance of Erving Goffman's idea of "Total Institutions."
- III.-19. Explain one of the following concepts in the sociology of Pierre Bourdieu: Field, Habitus, Cultural Capital.
- III.-20. Briefly present an argument for or against the Postmodern view of social science.
- III.-21. Cite an example that illustrates the utility of Weber's "Verstehen" methodology.
- III.-22. Choose a current social issue and present a "critical" sociological critique of it.