

## **Federation Theory Examination**

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

January 11, 2001  
Spring 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 NUMERED.**

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

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**Part I. Broad Perspective Comparisons**

- I. 1. Compare and contrast theories of two of the following scholars concerning one of the following topics: (1) The future of capitalism, (2) Function of Religion in Society, (3) The Role of the individual (Durkheim, Weber, Marx, Tonnies, Simmel).
- I. 2. Discuss the influence of Marxian theory on two of the following: Weber, Durkheim, Tonnies, C. Wright Mills, Alvin Gouldner, Bourdieu. (You may add one scholar of your own choice as one of the two you will discuss)
- I. 3. Present a coherent description of society from two of the following theoretical perspectives, citing relevant works: (1) structural functionalism, (2) conflict theory/critical, (3) exchange theory, or (4) symbolic interactionism.
- I. 4. How has the question of agency vs. structure been addressed in Contemporary Sociological Theory?

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

- II. 5. Discuss the differing presentations of social stratification in the history of sociological theory.
- II. 6. Discuss the influence of the enlightenment belief in progress in the works of two of the following social thinkers: Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, August Comte, Ferdinand Tonnies, Max Weber.
- II. 7. How is the sociology of one of the following figures elaborated in a contemporary sociological school of thought? Discuss specific research projects and debates. (Marx, Weber, Simmel, Durkheim.)
- II. 8. Connect the works of one major social thinker from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

**Part III. Short Answer. Choose three.**

- III. 9. Contrast Marx's use of the concept of division of labor with that of Durkheim.

- III. 10. Discuss the role of "Laws" in the development of modern society according to two of the following: Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Tonnies.
- III. 11. Provide a brief description of Simmel's concept of money and Marx's concept of money.
- III. 12. Discuss Veblen's idea of "Conspicuous Consumption" or "Conspicuous Waste".
- III. 13. Explain two of the following concepts citing the relevant sources: prisoner's dilemma, greatest happiness for greatest number, private vices, public good, satisficing, rational economic man.
- III. 14. Briefly summarize the postmodernist critique of sociological theory. In turn, what are some of the limitations to postmodern social theorizing according to its critics?
- III. 15. Compare and contrast what is traditionally known as the sociology of knowledge from a classical European perspective (Marx, Durkheim, Mannheim) with an American sociology of knowledge. How has, the modern sociology of knowledge drawn from classical sociology?
- III. 16. Discuss the argument that the concept of social class is becoming less relevant to the understanding of advanced industrial societies.
- III. 17. What was Habermas' theory of public sphere?
- III. 18. Discuss one of W.E.B. DuBois' contributions to sociological theory.
- III. 19. Compare Cooley's looking glass self theory with Mead's theory of "taking the role of the other."
- III. 20. Discuss Merton's contribution to deviance theory.
- III. 21. How has Dorothy Smith contributed to the sociology of knowledge?
- III. 22. In what ways does Goffman's Frame Analysis depart from his earlier work?
- III. 23. Critique social exchange theory from a feminist standpoint.
- III. 24. Explain Bourdieu's theory of social reproduction and habitus.

III. 25. Provide a sociological analysis of a current event.