

Federation Theory Examination

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

January 10, 2002
Spring 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 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 _____.

Part I. Broad Perspective Comparisons. Choose one.

- I. – 1. Compare, contrast, and critique three of the following in sociological theory citing the works of specific theorists.
Geimenschaft-Gesellschaft
Consensus-Conflict
Social order-Social Change
Organic-Mechanical Solidarity
- I. – 2. Identify and discuss common and contrasting elements of a theory of action or practice in two of the following: Marx, Weber, Parsons, Giddens, and Bourdieu.
- I. – 3. Compare the theories of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim with respect to one of the following debates: Social Stratification, Sociology of Religion, Social Change, or Social Movements.

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

- II. – 4. Trace the origin of conflict theory in the presociological works of three of the following: Machiavelli, Hobbs, Rousseau, Saint Simon, Spencer, or Vico.
- II. – 5. Describe the “sociological cannon” as you understand it, and discuss its changes over time, framing your discussion in terms of major influences from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- II. – 6. Trace the development of the theory of social stratification from the nineteenth to the twentieth century.
- II. – 7. Discuss the impact of the biological concept of evolution in the sociological thought of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Part III. Short Answer. Choose three.

- III. – 8. Elaborate on the influence of Durkheim on at least one contemporary sociological theory or field: conflict sociology, sociology of religion, sociology of culture, critical sociology, functionalism, or structuralism.
- III. – 9. Discuss the impact of social conditions in the west on sociological paradigms in the 1950s and 1960s.
- III. – 10. Briefly discuss Weber’s notion of power, domination and forms of authority.
- III. – 11. Identify and define Weber’s four ideal types of social action.
- III. – 12. Specify Comte’s scheme of the development of human mind and society.
- III. – 13. Briefly explain Bourdieu’s concept of “cultural capital.”
- III. – 14. Provide a fresh example for Goffman’s dramaturgic distinction between front stage and back stage.
- III. – 15. Briefly explain Parson’s AGIL exchange model.
- III. – 16. Explain Garfinkel’s “breaching experiments” and provide a fresh example.
- III. – 17. Explain Vilfredo Pareto’s “circulation of elites” theory.
- III. – 18. Provide a Marxist analysis of a contemporary political issue.
- III. – 19. Briefly explain critical race theory.
- III. – 20. How has Mills concept of power stood the test of time?
- III. – 21. Discuss a feminist theoretical perspective on one of the concepts: public sphere, gender roles, or family.
- III. – 22. Define Durkheim’s theory of social facts.
- III. – 23. Goffman argued that when social normalcy is seen as threatened, the rules governing social interaction are weakened or affected. How does this argument apply to post September 11, U.S.A.?