

FEDERATION COMPREHENSIVE THEORY EXAMINATION

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

Spring 2007

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 pm. to complete the examination. You should spend approximately half of your time on Parts I and II (two questions) and half of your time on Part III (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 _____

- I. BROAD SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS-Choose and write on one question
1. Compare and contrast ONE classical and ONE contemporary sociological theory on the nature and consequences of ONE of the following: structural social changes that ushered in the modern/industrial society, radical social change, East/West divide, micro/macro debate.
 2. Compare the views Marx, Durkheim, and Weber on one of the following substantive issues: Methodology of Social Science, Religion, Periodization of history.
 3. Discuss the original significance, impact and continuing relevance (in contemporary sociological literature) of two of the following classical sociological theories: Weber's "Rationalization," Durkheim's mechanical versus organic solidarity, Tonnies's *Gemeinschaft* versus *Gessellschaft*, or Marx's "Alienation."

II. DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL THOUGHT-Choose and write on one question

1. Discuss the formative influence of one classical sociological theory on one contemporary theory of ONE of the following: sociology of social problems, sociology of collective action, sociology of art and culture, sociology of knowledge.
2. Trace the career of ONE of the following ideas from the 18th through 19th and 20th centuries (citing at least one example from each century) and comment on its contemporary formulation:

Social Progress, Rights of the Individual in Society, Future Prospects of Human Society.

III. SHORT QUESTIONS--Choose and write on three (3) questions

1. Briefly discuss Comte's concept of hierarchy of sciences.
2. Briefly discuss Spencer's idea of social evolution.
3. Briefly discuss Marx's idea of proletariat as the revolutionary class.
4. Briefly discuss Weber's distinction between traditional and modern capitalism.
5. Briefly discuss Durkheim's idea of collective conscience.
6. Briefly discuss Sorokin's theory of cultural transformation of society
7. Briefly discuss Merton's middle-range theories.
8. Briefly discuss Mannheim's sociology of knowledge
9. Briefly discuss Habermas' idea of post-national society
10. Briefly discuss Bourdieu's concept of "habitus"
11. Briefly compare the traditional idea of system with that defined by sociopolitical ecology.
12. How relevant is the development of human communications in the so called "cyber-space" to the sociological enterprise?
13. Examine the significance of the concept of "Class" for one of the following: Marx, Weber, Bourdieu.
14. What is innovative about Giddens's theory of structuration?
15. Describe one contemporary attempt to advance rational choice theory.
16. Briefly compare Goffman and Garfinkel on one important point of divergence.
17. Provide a defense or a critique of the postmodern project.
18. Briefly discuss Marx's idea of "Commodity Fetishism."
19. Present a brief analysis of the social transformations in the former Soviet Union since 1991, using one of the following development theories: modernization, dependency, world system)