

FEDERATION QUALIFYING THEORY EXAMINATION
Federated Ph.D. Sociology Program
Texas Woman's University
University of North Texas

Spring 2008

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 the views of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber on one of the following substantive areas:

Role of religion in history; Emergence of modernity; role of conflict in society

2. Compare and contrast how two of the following schools of thought have conceptualized social change, citing the works of specific theorists to illustrate your answer: Structural Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, Exchange Theory.

3. Compare and contrast the conflict perspective in classical versus contemporary sociological theory, specifically citing the contribution of at least one theorist for each period.

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

1. Discuss the importance of the individuals who were not associated with the Chicago School of Sociology (such as William Graham Sumner, Lester Frank Ward, and others) for the development of American Sociology.

2. Discuss one important development in social thought prior to August Comte.

3. How did classical European Sociology influence American Sociology? Discuss and illustrate your answer by citing specific examples from two of the following: Marx, Spencer, Durkheim, Simmel, Weber, and Comte.

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

1. Discuss the treatment of social class/stratification in the works of the Chicago sociologists, citing specific works as examples.

2. Compare the central ideas of two of the following: Marx's Communist Manifesto, Weber's Protestant Ethic, Durkheim's Division of Labor, Simmel's Philosophy of Money.

3. Talcott Parsons contends that theories of Marshall, Pareto, Durkheim, and Weber converge on a common theme. What is that theme? Briefly discuss.

4. Briefly present an argument for or against the Classical Functionalist view of social change.

5. Choose a current social issue and present a Marxian description/critique of it.
6. Describe sociobiology's approach to understanding the social world and explain why you agree or disagree with it.
7. Briefly discuss the influence of postmodernism in contemporary sociology.
8. Briefly discuss gender relations from a modern and postmodern feminist perspective.
9. Discuss one of Jurgen Habermas's contributions to sociological theory.
10. Discuss the contribution of W.E.B Dubois to Sociological Theory.
11. Summarize Erving Goffman's concept of "Role Distance".
12. Briefly discuss Marx's distinction between Socialism and Communism.
13. Briefly describe Weber's ideal type of "Bureaucracy".
14. Compare Mead's analysis of "I" and "Me" with Freud's analysis of "Id" and "Ego."
15. Discuss the intellectual influence of Marxian thought on Feminist Theory.
16. Compare the conceptualization of conflict in the works of Marx and Dahrendorf.
17. What is the significance of Giddens' theory of "Structuration"?