

FEDERATION COMPREHENSIVE THEORY EXAMINATION

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

Spring 2005

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 (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 NUMERED.

Do not put your name on your paper. Use your assigned number, which is _____.

Part I. BROAD SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS – Choose and write on one question

1. Compare and contrast TWO classical and TWO contemporary sociological theories of *traditionalism, modernity and post-modernity* from the following:
classical: Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Tönnies, Veblen
contemporary: Parsons, Sorokin, Merton, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Bourdieu, Giddens, Collins

2. Compare and contrast TWO classical and TWO contemporary sociological theories of *social integration and conflict* from the following:
classical: Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Tönnies, Pareto, Veblen
contemporary: Parsons, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Bourdieu, Giddens, Collins, Mills

3. Compare and contrast TWO classical and TWO contemporary sociological theories of *forms and stages of society* from the following:
classical: Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Tönnies, Mannheim
contemporary: Sorokin, Parsons, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Bourdieu, Giddens, Lenski

4. Compare and contrast TWO classical and TWO contemporary sociological theories of *social stratification and religion/ideology* from the following:
classical: Spencer, Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Pareto, Simmel, Veblen, Mannheim
contemporary: Parsons, Merton, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Bourdieu, Giddens, Collins, Mills

5. Compare and contrast TWO classical and TWO contemporary sociological theories of *causes and effects of social development* from the following:
classical: Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Tönnies, Simmel, Pareto
contemporary: Sorokin, Parsons, Merton, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Giddens, Collins, Luhmann

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

1. Discuss the influence of TWO classical on TWO contemporary stratification theories from the following:

classical: Marx, Weber, Simmel, Pareto, Tönnies, Mannheim, Veblen

contemporary: Dahrendorf, Collins, Mills, Lenski, Bourdieu, Habermas, Giddens

2. Discuss the influence of TWO classical on TWO contemporary structural-functional theories from the following:

classical: Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Mauss, Malinowski, others

contemporary: Parsons, Merton, Alexander, Luhmann, Smelser, others

3. Discuss the influence of TWO classical on TWO contemporary theories of social evolution or progress from the following:

classical: Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, others

contemporary: Parsons, Merton, Habermas, Smelser, Lenski, others

4. Discuss the influence of TWO classical on TWO contemporary versions of the sociology of knowledge from the following:

classical: Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Pareto, Mannheim, Veblen

contemporary: Parsons, Merton, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Bourdieu, Mills

5. Discuss the influence of TWO classical on TWO contemporary sociological theories of authority and legitimation from the following:

classical: Spencer, Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Pareto

contemporary: Parsons, Dahrendorf, Habermas, Bourdieu, Giddens, Collins

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

1. Briefly discuss Spencer's Social Statics and Dynamics
2. Briefly discuss Marx's distinction between socialism and communism
3. Briefly discuss Tarde's law of social imitation
4. Briefly discuss Le Bon's conception of the crowd
5. Briefly discuss Pareto's theory of social cycles
6. Briefly discuss Veblen's concept of a leisure class
7. Briefly discuss Mauss' gift theory
8. Briefly discuss Freud's explanation of civilization
9. Briefly discuss Malinowski's theory of culture
10. Briefly discuss Mannheim's distinction between ideology and utopia
11. Briefly discuss Durkheim's conception of social institutions
12. Briefly discuss Pareto's non-logical and Weber's emotional (affective) actions
13. Briefly discuss Parsons' social subsystems
14. Briefly discuss Parsons' pattern variables
15. Briefly discuss Dahrendorf's concept of a *Homo Sociologicus*
16. Briefly discuss Sorokin's socio-cultural systems
17. Briefly discuss Habermas' argument of a legitimation crisis
18. Briefly discuss Bourdieu's theory of practice
19. Briefly discuss Goffman's concept of strategic interaction
20. Briefly discuss Homans' concept of psychological laws in sociology