

FEDERATION COMPREHENSIVE THEORY EXAMINATION

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

January 6, 2006

Spring 2006

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

- I-1. Compare and contrast two sociological theories of democracy and its alternatives.
- I-2. Compare and contrast two sociological theories of the nature of capitalism.
- I-3. Compare and contrast the approaches of Marx and Weber on the relationship between economy and society.

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

- II-1. Discuss the influence of One classical on One contemporary version of the sociology of Religion.
- II-2. Discuss the influence of One classical on One contemporary conception of Interpretive Sociology.
- II-3. Describe the past, present, and future (as you see it) of “grand theorizing.”
- II-4. Trace the development of the idea of Progress in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

Part III. SHORT QUESTIONS- Choose and write on three of the following questions

- III-1. Briefly discuss Comte’s “social statics” and “social dynamics.”
- III-2. Briefly discuss Spencer’s “military” and “industrial” societies.
- III-3. Briefly discuss Durkheim’s concept of “anomie.”
- III-4. Briefly discuss Marx’s description of feudalism.
- III-5. Briefly discuss Weber’s model of “bureaucracy.”
- III-6. Briefly discuss Sorokin’s “socio-cultural systems.”
- III-7. Briefly discuss Habermas’ argument of a “legitimation crisis.”
- III-8. Briefly discuss Bourdieu’s “theory of practice” Or “habitus.”
- III-9. Briefly discuss Goffman’s concept of “strategic interaction” Or “impression management.”
- III-10. Briefly discuss Giddens’ ideas of social structure and structuration.
- III-11. Briefly discuss Parsons’ AGIL grid.

- III-12. Briefly discuss Garfinkel's idea of "Ethnomethodology."
- III-13. Briefly discuss Marx's notion of "alienated labor."
- III-14. Briefly discuss Weber's main thesis in the "Protestant Ethic."
- III-15. Briefly discuss Durkheim's concept of "altruistic suicide."
- III-16. Briefly discuss Simmel's type: "Stranger."
- III-17. Briefly discuss Blumer's notion of "Symbolic Interaction."
- III-18. Briefly discuss the impact of the Frankfurt School in sociology.