

FEDERATION COMPREHENSIVE THEORY EXAMINATION

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

Fall 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 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 _____.

I. *BROAD SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS* -- Choose and write on one question

1. Compare and contrast ONE classical and ONE contemporary sociological theory 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 ONE classical and ONE contemporary sociological theory 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 ONE classical and ONE contemporary sociological theory 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 ONE classical and ONE contemporary sociological theory 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 ONE classical and ONE contemporary sociological theory 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 how the doctrine of human progress manifests itself in the work of two 18th or 19th century social thinkers.
2. Compare and contrast the impact of social conditions on sociological paradigms prior to and after WW II.
3. Trace the historical development of a substantive theory of your choice, for example, social change, deviance, or race and ethnicity.
4. Discuss the impact of one of the first generation of European sociologists (Saint Simon, Comte, Spencer, Marx) on one of the later classical sociologists (Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, or Tonnies).

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

1. Discuss the theoretical treatment of social or cultural capital across gender and racial/ethnic groups from the perspective of one contemporary theorist.
2. Discuss the use of the concept of honor in one of the following:
Max Weber, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Georg Simmel
3. Discuss the concept of deviance in the works of two of the following:
Erving Goffman, Howard Becker, and Edwin Lemert
4. From a historical critical perspective, discuss the idea that the sociological canon is Eurocentric, patriarchal, or patrilineal.
5. Explain one attempt to integrate macro and micro approaches to the study of society, citing the works of at least one theorist.
6. Select one substantive area of sociology and briefly explain how theory has been used to orient research in that area.
7. Explain how Giddens uses ideas from Schutz or Goffman to develop his theory of structuration.
8. Identify Parsons' AGIL scheme and connect its elements to specific sub systems.
9. Briefly discuss Tonnie's dichotomy between Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft.
10. Briefly discuss Giddens' concept of duality of structure.
11. Compare and contrast Bourdieu's notion of habitus with Marx's praxis.
12. Briefly explain Goffman's concept of frame analysis
13. Discuss a contribution of a minority and/or female sociologist to sociological theory apart from theories related to race, class, and gender.
14. Explain Simmel's use of the concept of "stranger".
15. Discuss a feminist contribution to one of the following sociological debates:
Ethnomethodology, Parsonian Sociology, Theories of Development, Postmodernism.
16. Describe a postmodern approach to sociological theory.
17. Discuss Merton's critique of classical functionalism.
18. Summarize Dahrendorf's theory of social conflict. Note either the Marxian or Weberian influences on his work.
19. Discuss Herbert Blumer's concept of "Symbolic Interactionism."
20. Explain (without criticism) the theory of Sociobiology.