

Sociological Theory Final Essay Questions
Spring 2008

Instructions: Chose ONE question from group A and ONE question from group B. Answer each in 3-4 pages (12 point, double-spaced). Write succinctly and draw examples from the text book and reading packet to support your points. Cite your sources in MLA, APA, or any other standard citation format.

Group A

- 1. Sociological theory is often categorized into paradigms (Conflict, Functionalism, Symbolic Interaction) or Schools (Chicago, Frankfurt). These theoretical approaches have their roots in the work of specific classical theorists. They also influence contemporary theorists. Trace the development and influences of two sociological paradigms or schools. Present the founders and their concepts. Trace the development of the perspective to two contemporary theorists who have been influenced by these theoretical perspectives. Be sure to specify how the contemporary theorists have adjusted key concepts or created new ones to make up for the perceived shortcomings of the perspective.**
- 2. Marx has influenced many sociologists. Trace the influence, flowering and/or ebbing of Marx's theories in at least three social theorists (at least one classical, one modern). Clearly identify the theorists, elaborate their position, how they have followed or deviated from Marx, and be concise. I want to know that you understand what you're talking about.**
- 3. Compare and contrast the theoretical positions of three sociological and/or anthropological theorists of your choice [at least one classical and at least one modern] in such a way that you: 1) demonstrate how these theorists account for the existence of society; 2) articulate the relationship between society and the individual in their theories; and 3) - demonstrate how these theorists account for the role of change and continuity in social life.**

Group B

- 4. Sociology has been criticized because it assumes societies to be overly integrated and take socialization to be more effective than it actually is. Dennis H. Wrong's article "The Oversocialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology" formulates a direct presentation of this type of critique. Beginning with Wrong' criticism, analyze three sociological theorists of your choice [at least**

one classical and at least one modern] and demonstrate how such a critique apply, or do not apply, to their theories. How would they answer Wrong's assertions?

- 5. Prepare a mock debate involving three sociological theorists of your choice (at least one classical and at least one contemporary) as they argue over explaining the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 and its consequences. Make sure that your mastery of their theoretical positions is clearly in evidence.**