

Sociology 401 Final Exam Review Sheet

Essay questions. Answers to essay questions will be graded according to two criteria: (1) Mastery of the material (i.e., repeating back what you have learned) and (2) applying the material in an interesting way. Five of the following eight essay questions will be on the test. You will select two of them to answer.

1. (a) Explain Schutz's critique of social science, focusing on the difference between common-sense thinking and social science thinking. (b) Describe either Garfinkel's ethnomethodological breaching exercises or Jack Katz's phenomenological explanations of crime and explain how it is consistent (or inconsistent) with Schutz's critique.
2. Berger and Luckmann propose three steps in the social construction of reality. (a) List and explain each step. (b) Explain and illustrate how Iowa State University or some component of it is socially constructed through these three steps. Be sure to explain your own role in each step.
3. (a) List each of the institutions in Best's "Iron Quadrangle." Explain how each of these institutions is involved in institutionalizing social problems and how each benefits from being involved. (b) Choose a contemporary social problem and illustrate how each of these institutions has been involved with institutionalizing the problem.
4. (a) Describe Best's argument about using the metaphor "declaring war" to talk about social problems. Be sure to include reasons for using the metaphor and the four problems with using the metaphor. (b) Illustrate all of the above points with a contemporary social problem.
5. (a) Explain Foucault's argument in *Discipline and Punish* that "sovereign power" has been replaced by "disciplinary power." (b) Explain how this argument is illustrated by the "Carceral" reading. (c) Provide and explain some examples of "disciplinary power" in contemporary U.S. society.
6. (a) Explain what postmodernism is, including its moderate and extreme versions. (b) Explain why you believe the contemporary United States is or is not a postmodern society.
7. (a) Explain what critical theory is and how it differs from Marxism. (b) Summarize the key claims of Marcuse's and Habermas' versions of critical theory, making sure to include their key concepts. (c) Choose either Marcuse's or Habermas' version of critical theory and explain how it describes some facets of contemporary life in the United States.
8. (a) Describe Dorothy Smith's critique of sociology, being sure to discuss the bifurcation of consciousness. (b) Apply her critique to your experience as a sociology student. Do you experience the bifurcation of consciousness? Explain, being sure to discuss how your gender relates to this question.

Anticipated design of exam

Two essay questions (of five)	40 points (20 per question)
Match the theorist with the quote	36 points (12 questions, 3 points per question)
Multiple choice questions	24 points (12 questions, 2 points per question)
Bonus questions	

Important ideas to know

Everything from assigned readings or lecture is fair game for the test. Pay special attention to the class overheads, which are available on the class web site. Here are some concepts with which you may want to be familiar:

Sociology of knowledge

McCarthy's two emphases (propositions) Marx's sociology of knowledge
Mannheim's sociology of knowledge Ideology and utopia

Schutz's phenomenological sociology

The dialectical nature of everyday life Reciprocity of perspectives
Common sense thinking vs. social science thinking

Katz's phenomenological criminology

Berger & Luckmann

Three steps in the social construction of reality World-maintenance
Social structure as typifications and patterns of interactions Reality of everyday life

Ethnomethodology and Garfinkel's breaching exercises

Joel Best

Three positions on social problems The non-randomness of crime
Incidents and instances Iron Quadrangle
Victims and the victim industry Declaring war on social problems
Connections between claims (domain expansion, ideological extension, etc.)

Feminist sociology

Dorothy Smith

Bifurcation Her critique of sociology

Barrett's "Words and Things"

Critical theory

Herbert Marcuse

One-dimensional thought False vs. true needs

Jürgen Habermas

Ideal speech situation Colonization of the life-world Models of democracy

Postmodernism (moderate and extreme versions)

Michel Foucault

Knowledge and power Archeology of knowledge
Sovereign power vs. disciplinary power

Jean-Francois Lyotard

Meta-narratives His critique of Habermas

The Kivisto Readings (Dandaneau, Lorber & Martin, Ritzer)