

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Comprehensive Examination in Sociological Theory
December 16, 2009

Answer the required question in Part I. Then choose two questions from Part II to answer three questions in total. Number your responses to indicate the questions answered (e.g., I, II2, II5). Do not copy the question as part of your answer. Put only your “codename,” not your given name, on your answer document. Do not create a title page. Use 12-point font, Times New Roman or Arial, double-spaced, with 1” margins at top and bottom and 1 ¼” on each side. Use ASA style for any references. Number all pages.

Proofread for spelling and grammatical errors. Do not exceed 20 pages, including references. If your references come from the reading list, you do not need to list them on a separate page; please list only those readings not drawn directly from the list. The provisions of the University of Colorado’s Honor Code apply to all aspects of this exam.

You have 24 hours to complete the exam. Email the finished document (Word or PDF attachment) to Angela by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 17. Submit using your last name as the filename (e.g., *irvine.doc*). Make a back-up copy of your document. You do not need to return the original exam questions.

Part I: Answer the following question

Define and critically compare Marx’s concept of “alienation” and Weber’s concept of “disenchantment.” What are the social processes that, according to each sociologist, brought about these phenomena?

Part II: Answer two of the following questions

1. Reflect on the conceptual relationship between Durkheim’s “conscience collective” and Du Bois’ “double consciousness.” Then, explain how each concept fits into the authors’ understanding of modernity.
2. Explain the role of Freudian ideas in Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*. What social phenomena does Freudian language allow Fanon to explain?
3. Articulate and compare Durkheim’s theory of the symbolic in social life with Foucault’s understanding of the role of discourse in society.
4. How does Goffman’s conception of self differ from Mead’s?
5. Relate Gilman’s theory of the proprietary family to Weber’s theories of legitimate domination. What shortcomings of Weber’s theories are revealed by Gilman’s ideas? How could the theories be combined?

6. Consider the symbolic interactionism of Mead and Blumer and the ethnomethodology of Garfinkel. Compare these micro-sociologies in light of their relative conceptions of interaction and the methods of studying it. For each, identify the key conceptions about interaction and identify the primary approaches to studying interaction.