

SOCI 201 (SP13) Final Exam Review Questions

The Final Exam will be on Thursday May 9 in class

You may bring one 4x6 card with you to the exam, with information on front and back.

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS: Issue 1 – Economic Inequality

Structure/Conflict:

What is social stratification? Use the United States as an example and give detail as to the structure and explanation for American stratification.

Examine both the structural-functional and the social-conflict explanations of economic inequality. How do Kingsley Davis' and Wilbert Moore's approaches to economic inequality differ from Karl Marx's? Be sure to explain the internal logic and the external ideology of each theory.

Power Elite:

According to Domhoff, what is the structure of the power elite today, and how does each group contribute to the whole? In other words, what three groups have predominant power in the United States at this time? Describe each group in detail.

Poverty:

What are some ways in which poverty is linked to institutional discrimination?

INTEGRATE at least two of these solutions into your answers:

- Redistribution of budgetary resources (for example Head Start): **WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR!**
- Reapportion resources in the media, for example to focus on journalism not advertising: **BOYCOTTS!**
- Sustained Activism: example, **OCCUPY WALL STREET MOVEMENT (SOCIAL MOVEMENTS)**
- **REDEFINE** the **POVERTY** line.
- **REDEFINE POLITICS** to include a strong third party working class candidacy.
- **REDEFINE CAPITALISM TO RECOGNIZE FAIRNESS** and promote the idea that moderate redistribution of wealth is not socialism.

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS: Issue 2 – Problems in Media and Entertainment Institutions

The Meaning of of Media:

Name and explain at least two sociological models of media.

Media and Violence:

Does the media have an impact on levels of violence, racism, sexism, and so on? If so, explain using sources from the course readings.

Media Propaganda:

In the article “A Propaganda Model,” by Herman and Chomsky the two men suggest that under the propaganda model the corporate media, which relies heavily on profit, furthers the agendas and interests of the dominant, elite groups in society. Give an example, and explain why Herman and Chomsky feel a radical press can connect the working class.

The classical democratic theory was set in place to provide information, ideas and debate concerns to promote a democratic sphere. In the 1990’s the stricture of this institute was overthrown, what social issues have surfaced since then?

INTEGRATE at least two of these solutions into your answers:

- LEGISLATION to break up Corporate Media ownership (the “big six”)
- TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS to violence in media:; V-Chips, child blocks
- EDUCATE PARENTS about these solutions
- BOYCOTT advertisers who support offensive content
- DIVERSIFY SOURCES of media news and entertainment (watch FOX and Democracy Now, see independent film, etc.)

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS: Issue 3 – Problems of the Criminal Justice System

Deviance, Crime, and Structure of the System:

Explain the correlation between deviance and power.

Name three types of crime and briefly describe them. Also, why are white collar crimes not documented like street crimes in the annual FBI Uniform Crime Report?

CJS Institutional Dysfunctions:

In what ways does the video *The Plea* show the injustices of the criminal justice system? Also explain why the mandatory minimum sentencing rule and “three strikes” rule are problematic.

According to Michelle Alexander, how does the war on drugs affect social class? (i.e., discuss the idea of the “New Jim Crow”).

Gun Violence:

Why is gun control policy a recurring issue? Tie into your answer a discussion of the debate about whether to have concealed carry laws extended to college campuses.

INTEGRATE at least two of these solutions into your answers:

- REVEAL how those who have power define law, e.g. ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council, www.alec.org)
- RECOGNIZE statistics about crime (i.e., it’s decreased dramatically since the 1970s) to avoid responses based on fear and panic
- LEGISLATE new responses to drug crime (see it as a public health problem, not a felony or misdemeanor offense)
- REDUCE case loads for public defenders so they can do their job and eliminate the de facto Plea system that has developed

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS: Issue 4 – Sex and Gender Problems

Doing Gender:

What is a gender role and how does it fit in with social norms? What are examples of gender roles? How do people “perform” gender? List some sex or gender “double standards” in the workplace.

Gender in the Media:

Give examples of advertising representations of powerlessness, objectification, animalism, and degradation against women. How do these representations relate to social norms, according to Kilbourne?

How are men’s roles defined by the contemporary media? How does this relate to violence and social norms? What is the “tough guise”?

Global Gender Problems:

What is the cross-cultural “master narrative” about gender roles, according to Cynthia Fuchs Epstein? What social problems occur particularly for women as a response to this “master narrative”?

How is illegal sex trafficking conducted in eastern Europe, and what are the rights of female sex workers in India?

INTEGRATE at least two of these solutions into your answers:

- SEE advertising for what it is – selling cultural norms as much as product
- BOYCOTT offensive advertisers and their media supporters
- LEGISLATE for comparable pay for equivalent work, board of directorate equality, and against “glass ceilings” in the workplace
- CHALLENGE norms of masculinity that define violence as a normal part of male culture
- EDUCATE about the problems women still face globally in establishing challenges for equal rights to education, work and sexuality