

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOC510

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : SOC510

HONOURS - MAY/JUNE EXAMINATION

2014

TIME : 3 HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS ONLY.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 3 PAGES
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INTERNAL EXAMINER

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

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Question 1

R. W. Connell's article "Why is classical Theory Classical?" contends that the discipline of Sociology emerged from a broad cultural dynamic in which the tensions of liberalism and empire were central, and that global expansion and European imperialism gave the discipline its main conceptual framework and much of its data, key problems, and methods.

Discuss the fundamental tenets of R.W. Connell's argument. (33 1/3)

Question 2.

Write an in-depth critical analysis of any ONE of the following theorist that is pertinent to recent developments in sociological theory:

- ✓ **Anthony Giddens**
- ✓ **Edward Said**

(33 1/3)

Question 3

Post-modernism has been described as "unsystematic, egotistical, anti-scientific and abstract". Assess this impression. In your answer, outline the main principles of 'post-modernism', and its contribution to the debate about alternative perspectives to understanding society. (33 1/3)

Question 4

Feminist theories in sociology reflect the rich diversity of general theoretical orientations in the discipline, and they have influenced the mainstream sociological theory. But feminist theories have remained on the margins of sociology, ignored by the central male formulators of the discipline until 1960. Discuss the varieties of feminist sociological theory, its fundamental principles, and its epistemological contributions to sociology. (33 1/3)

Question 5

Is the discipline of sociology Proscience or Antiscience? Discuss Randall Collins' critical appraisal of the variety of assaults on the conception of sociology as a science. (33 1/3)

Question 6

In his essay entitled "The Centrality of the classics", Jeffrey Alexander argues for the centrality of the classics in contemporary social science. However, both the empiricists and the humanists challenge Alexander's theoretical stance, and they believe that any attempt to merge systematics of sociological theory with history will lead to 'intellectually degenerative tendencies'. Discuss the main elements of the argument concerning the relationship between social science and the classics. (33 1/3)

Question 7

The micro/macro issue in sociological theorizing has been extensively debated at a meta-theoretical level within the discipline. Discuss the main elements of Randall Collins' contribution to this debate.

(33 1/3)

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