

Semester II Examinations, 2003/2004
Front Page Template

Exam Code(s)	3BA1, 3BA5, 4BA7, 1OA1, 1EM1
Exam(s)	3rd Arts
Module Code(s)	SP405
Module(s)	Contemporary Social Thought
Paper No.	
Repeat Paper	Special Paper
External Examiner(s)	Professor Richard Jenkins
Internal Examiner(s)	Professor Chris Curtin
	Dr. Mark Haugaard

Instructions:

You must answer three questions. Choose ANY three from the list below. You have three hours.

Duration	3hs
No. of Answer books	1

Requirements:

Handout	
MCQ	
Statistical Tables	
Graph Paper	
Log Graph Paper	
Other Material	

No. of Pages	
Department(s)	Political Science & Sociology

SP405 Contemporary Social Thought

Answer THREE Questions.

1. If we wish to understand the distribution of power in a society, should we primarily analyse conflicts of interest through decision making or the thoughts and desires of the relatively powerless members of society, or both?

2. EITHER

Give a critical account of Parsons' description of social actors and their relationship to social systems.

OR

In Parsons' theory, what are the four subsystems of a social system? Which one is responsible for the creation of power and how?

3. In his account of social order Barnes tries to combine the ideas of Kuhn with rational choice theory. How does he accomplish this task? In your opinion is he successful?
4. Giddens wished to provide conceptual space both for agency and structure. How did he do he theorize this? In your opinion, was he successful?
5. What are the three epistemes which Foucault analyses in his archaeological work? Describe them, with examples.
6. How does Poulantzas attempt to move structuralist Marxism beyond simple economic determinism? In your view, is he successful?
7. In what way can the Panopticon be described as a paradigm of modern power? Give examples from *Discipline and Punish* and/or *The History of Sexuality*. Would you agree that we are living in a Panoptical society?
8. In Bourdieu's social theory, how is everyday life structured by different forms of capital?
9. Is there one kind of power or does post-modern social theory suggest that there are at least three? Do you agree with the post-modern position?
10. In what sense can it be argued that the clock is as significant as the steam engine in understanding the advent of the industrial revolution. In answering this question you should make reference to Giddens and Foucault, although you need not place equal emphasis upon each.
Please note that if you have answered on either of these thinkers in another question, avoid substantive replication of information.
11. In what sense does structural reproduction entail 'practical consciousness' consent to the reproduction of social order and how significant is the phenomenon of structural conflict? Explain the overall theoretical context of this question.