

Self and Society (Soc 2)

Exam 1 Study Guide (Spring 05)

Instructor: Brian Paciotti

Exam Date: Tuesday April 26th

PLEASE bring to class a SCANTRON (UCD 2000) and a BLUE BOOK (of any type).

Exam Format

Part I. Multiple-choice questions (64%): This section will include 32 multiple-choice questions. These will each be worth 2 points for a total of 64 points.

Part II. Short-Answer questions (36%): This section will have three (3) short answer questions in which you will be asked to write about a page in your blue book on specific topics. Each question will be worth 12 points for a total of 36 points.

To study for the exam, you should focus on all of the concepts and topics provided in lecture 2-7 (you do not need to worry about lecture 1). The exam will ONLY cover topics addressed in lecture. Thus, the best way to study is to print out all of the lectures, and review the slides. In addition, it will be useful to use the textbook (chapter 1-3) and reader to supplement what you learned in lecture. It is especially important that you read the chapters in the READER about symbolic interactionism. PLEASE NOTE THAT I WILL NOT TEST YOU ON ARTICLE #5 IN THE READER TITLED “THE POLITICS OF SOCIAL REALITY”. We will cover this article at a later time.

Do not get too worried about learning every detail in the lectures. Focus on the main points of the lecture slides. However, students who can integrate details into their short answer questions will receive more points than those who do not. People who attended lecture will have in their notes (or their minds) information about sections of the lecture that I said would be less important on the test. For example, in many areas, I stated, “the details are not important in this section; the main idea is to get the general concepts.”

In addition to studying concepts and terms, be prepared to INTEGRATE this information by answering three (3) short-answer questions similar to the ones listed below. We will be looking for answers that are thoughtful and reflect an understanding of the course material.

- 1.) Consider the relationship between social psychology and other disciplines. What are some differences between sociological social psychology and psychological social psychology?
- 2.) What are the different theoretical perspectives discussed in lecture? What forces (or variables) does each theory assume are important? I may give you an example of human behavior, and ask you how different types of theories would be used to explain the behavior.
- 3.) Know some of the advantages and disadvantages of different types of methods: (case studies and ethnographic research, survey research, archival research, and experimental research). I may give you a research problem (e.g., violence in schools), and ask you to explain the costs and benefits of using different methods to test hypotheses about this problem.
- 4.) Describe the differences between a correlational study and an experimental study. What are the benefits of using experiments in contrast to correlational methods?
- 5.) What are some of the ethical issues that could arise when doing social research? What must researchers do to protect their human subjects?
- 6.) Be prepared to briefly describe any ONE experiment mentioned in the text or in lecture.
 - a) Did random assignment simplify the results of this experiment?
 - b) Were there clear benefits of conducting an experiment rather than a correlational study to understand the research question?

- 7.) Review the factors that influence our self-concepts (e.g., roles, social identity, social comparison, and other people's judgments).
- 8.) Briefly describe the material, social and spiritual aspects of the self as discussed in lecture.
- 9.) Is self-serving bias adaptive or maladaptive? Defend your view. (p. 70-72)
- 10.) Why do are people concerned with understanding their "social worlds"? Provide examples of non-verbal communication, and explain why this form of communication is important. What is the difference between non-verbal communication and attribution?
- 11.) What is the Fundamental Attribution Error? What factors might explain why individuals are susceptible to this error?
- 12.) Briefly define schema and heuristics. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of relying on schema and heuristics.
- 13.) What is the difference between universal and cross-cultural perspectives in social psychology
- 14.) Briefly review the possible historical/cultural difference between East Asians and Westerners. Why might these be important for social psychologists to consider?
- 15.) Do you think there is good evidence the East Asians and Westerners differ in their self-concepts and other cognitive processes?
- 16.) Why do you think people are susceptible to self-serving bias?
- 17.) How is symbolic interactionism different from the psychological social psychology presented in the textbook? Know 2-3 differences and be prepared to describe these differences. (Focus on article #1 in READER).
- 18.) What are THREE important concepts/assumptions of symbolic interactionism as outlined in article #2 in the READER. More importantly, be able to discuss what it meant by these assumptions.
- 19.) What are symbols? Provide some examples of how symbols are used to construct human "reality". How objective can humans be when interacting in their symbolic worlds? Provide examples. (Focus on article #3 in READER)
- 20.) Read article #4 in the READER and be prepared to discuss ways in which symbolic interactionists attempt understand the "self". Consider these questions: What is the self? What processes generate the self? What is the looking glass self? What is self-presentation, and why are people concerned with impression management?