

Midterm Examination Prep Sheet

Rules of the Game: The midterm examination for this course will take place on **Thurs Oct 7/2004 from 11am to 1215pm**. Some extra time may be given at the end of the exam, *but do not count on it*. Should you be unable to take the exam on the given date and time, you **must** contact me no later than 24hr in advance and provide me with a reasonable excuse and sufficient evidence. If you do not contact me 24hr in advance and arrange an alternate exam format, **you will receive a zero on the exam and cannot pass the course**.

The Format: For this exam, you will need the following materials with you at the start of class; no other materials, including course books, will be permitted.

- At least two (2) and preferably three (3) blue books – these are available at the bookstore and other convenience stores on campus;
- A blue or black pen – no exam written in pencil will be graded;
- And one 8 ½" by 11" (letter size) sheet of paper, on which you can write notes for this exam.

Your sheet of notes can be double-sided, and can contain notes (including page citations) in preparation for the questions listed below. You cannot, however, write out the entire essay or concept identification question; if you do, each question for which you have written the entire response will receive a zero. **Your sheet of notes must contain page citations for any material that comes from a course text, and your responses for the questions on the exam must include page citations where appropriate; failure to include citations to all sources used in a response will result in a full letter grade deduction per question where the problem appears.**

At the end of the exam, you will submit the blue books, the exam sheet, and your sheet of notes. No credit will be given for anything not written in the blue books, but at least I'll be able to see where you were heading in the event you run out of time.

The Details: The midterm exam will ask you to write responses to the following types of questions:

- Four (4) concept identification questions, which you select from eight given on the exam;
- Two (2) short answer questions, which you select from four given on the exam;
- And one (1) longer essay, for which only one choice will be given on the exam.

Your responses should be an argument that clearly addresses the "big question" posed to you, one that clearly demonstrates the entire thought process that went into the development of that argument and ways in which you are utilizing the course materials to support the claims you are making. You need to have adequate textual support for your responses, so think of these as short "Schaffer papers." (You should refer to the "How to Write a Schaffer Paper" handout in preparing for this examination; it is available on the course web site and on Blackboard.) Each question will ask you utilize a certain number of texts in developing your response; essays that are short texts will lose one-third letter grade per text it is short. You need to utilize this format when citing the texts: **(Author Year: Page) or (Author, Page)**.

You should allow yourself about 15-20min for the concept identification questions, 25-30min for the short answer questions, and 25-30min for the essay question. I will announce the time remaining when there are 30, 15, and 5 minutes left in the exam.

Good luck, and happy preparing...

The Exam Questions: All the questions on the midterm examination will be drawn from what's listed below. *Please note: The numbers of the questions listed below **will not** match the numbers of the questions on the exam. On your notes, make sure to identify each question in some way so you can match your prepared work to the question you're answering.*

Concept Identifications (40% of exam grade)

Of the twenty (20) concepts listed below, ten (10) will appear on the exam. You are to choose four (4) of them for your response. That response – which does not have to appear in the form of complete sentences – **must** contain the following elements:

- A. The identification of the author(s) who discuss that concept;
- B. A definition of the concept *in your own words* – do not use the definition provided in any of the course readings, or you will receive a zero for the question – and a discussion of the way that concept plays an important part in the author's argument;
- C. Other related concepts and how they're related – these can include concepts that are not listed on the exam sheet.

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| 1. Globalization | 11. Xenophobia and heterophobia |
| 2. Schismogenesis | 12. Norm |
| 3. "Natural attitude" | 13. Time/space compression |
| 4. Socialization | 14. Modernity |
| 5. Free trade | 15. "The stranger" |
| 6. Culture | 16. Sociological imagination |
| 7. The "I" and the "me" | 17. Structural adjustment program |
| 8. Relationism | 18. Comparative reference groups |
| 9. International financial flows | 19. Global assembly line |
| 10. Reflexivity | 20. Life-world |

Short Answer Questions (30% of exam grade)

Of the five (5) short answer questions listed below, three (3) will appear on the exam. You are to choose two (2) of them for your response. That response – which *does* need to be in the form of complete sentences and paragraphs – needs to utilize any and all appropriate readings completed in the course, and must include page citations for those references. Be sure that you provide a clear and direct thesis statement that responds directly to the question posed. Your responses should be approximately 1-2 blue book pages in length.

1. In what ways does the use of the "sociological imagination" highlight the ways in which our habitual social actions reinforce the existing social order?
2. How does our notion of moral responsibility for others differ in exchange relationships and gift relationships?
3. What is the relationship between freedom and dependence within a social order?
4. What are the implications that result from the increase in "time-space compression" in our time?
5. What is the relationship between our conformity to the social order and the legitimation of the social order?

Essay Questions (30% of exam grade)

Of the two (2) essay questions listed below, one (1) will appear on the exam. Everyone will respond to this question. Please make sure that your response utilizes any and all appropriate readings completed in the course, includes page citations for those references, and follows the basic format for an essay (introductory paragraph with a clear thesis statement, body paragraphs that address the particular elements of the question, concluding paragraph). Your thesis statement needs to be directed to the question that appears in boldface below. Your response should be approximately 3-5 blue book pages in length.

1. Define three (3) concepts discussed so far in the course that have helped you understand your upbringing, social position, and/or belief system better, making sure to show how it is *in general* that you would recognize those concepts. Then, after discussing appropriate aspects of your life so far, analyze those aspects of your biography using those concepts, making sure to show what it is that is explained by using those concepts to analyze your own life. Finally, use this discussion to respond to this question: **In what ways does using the sociological imagination to analyze your own biography better explain what helped to make you who you are than would an explanation based entirely on a “free will” argument?**

2. After discussing the general tendencies and concepts involved in or related to schismogenesis, discuss the various groups who are involved in the neoliberal transition (and resistance to it) in South Africa. Then, outline the varying degrees and types of moral responsibility that each group has for either bringing the situation in South Africa into existence, maintaining it in its current form, or attempting to change the situation, making sure to discuss the vision that each group has of how it wants South Africa to turn out when the transition is completed. Finally, use this discussion to respond to this question: **To what extent are we morally responsible for or implicated in the suffering of the people discussed in *We Are the Poors*, and how might we change the situation as a result of this new understanding?**

A final note:

This exam is all about your preparation for it. The questions are challenging, but given enough time and dedication thought about them (and given that you’ve already read all the material), you can do what these questions are asking you to do. A few hints:

Spend time on this: You should probably spend at least 30 minutes a day on your preparation for this exam. If you do that, you should be well prepared for this exercise.

Start with the stuff you know: Look through the entire prep sheet and figure out what you can easily handle preparing at this point in time. Take care of that first, and then move on to the questions that are tougher for you.

Break the questions down: For the tougher questions, break the questions into sections or elements that need to be addressed. In the essay questions, this is partly done for you by listing the steps you need to go through to fully and completely address the question. Make sure you address all the elements of each of the different kinds of questions.

Prepare good notes: If your exam notes are sloppy, incomplete, or unreadable, you’ll freak out on exam day. Make sure that *you* know what’s on your notes and can go through it rather easily.

Get a good night’s sleep: If you don’t, you’ll freak out, and none of this will matter anyway. Be sure to take care of your body, and you’ll get through this in fine form. That means no cramming.