

Sociology 415 Contemporary Social Theory

Third Take-Home Exam, Fall 2020

Instructions: Answers must be submitted in **MICROSOFT WORD**. All exams must be emailed to:

Unexcused late exams will be penalized 6 points for the first week and 10 points thereafter.

In order to ensure receipt, the subject headers in your emails and attachments must read: 415.3 followed by last and first name. For example:

415.3 Lincoln, Abraham

Put your full name on your exam answer and number each answer (and sub-answer separately where appropriate). Use a darker font than usual so that I can best read your exam. The preferred font is **12 point Arial Black in Single Space. No extra credit and no make-up exams.**

Plagiarism: Every student must write an exam in his/her own words. Failure to write in one's own words will be regarded as plagiarism. Plagiarism includes: parallels in sentence structure, wording, or any rearrangement of material from another student's exam. Plagiarism also includes any material quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise used without footnote from any inter-net, published, or student-written sources. Exams or materials from paper and exam services will be treated as plagiarism. All forms of plagiarism will result in harsh penalties, including the ultimate penalty of failing the course.

I reserve the right to administer an oral examination to confirm that the written examination answers are the product of a student's own work.

Q.1 According to Michael Mann's theory of ethnocide and genocide, the mass murder of enormous numbers of human beings rarely occurs in a stable democracy in which the vast majority of citizens respect long established state institutions. According to Mann, genocide and ethnocide are more likely to occur when states are in the process of establishing democratic institutions for the first time. Why should this be? Be sure to focus your response to this question on Mann's conceptual distinction between leaders and governments that seek support from an ethnos on the one hand or the demos on the other. Mann discusses the distinction between the appeals to the ethnos and the demos in the assigned reading that is Chapter 1 of his *Dark Side of Democracy*. The distinction between appeals to an ethnos and the demos was also discussed in lecture. **Q.1=10 points**

Q.2 In my lectures on the preconditions for democracy I made a point of emphasizing the necessity of a stable and enduring constitution. Imagine a situation in which a substantial portion of the citizens of a democratic country no longer found their constitution to be acceptable. This withdrawal of support for this country's constitution would threaten the collapse of its

democracy. In one paragraph, please explain why or how the withdrawal of support for a nation's constitution would threaten its democracy. Be sure to consult my lectures on the preconditions for democracy in your answer. **Q.2=5 points**

Q.3. In your assigned reading from *Modernity and the Holocaust*, Zygmunt Bauman observes that distancing makes it easy for people to inflict suffering without having a bad conscience. Please define distancing and indicate how it allows people to cause other people to suffer without giving them a bad conscience. Then please provide one example of a job or a task where a person (or a small group of people) cause others to suffer without feeling guilty or having a bad conscience. Please indicate how your example conforms to the definition you provide. *Note: examples must differ from examples used by Bauman or discussed in lectures. Previously used examples will not earn any credits.* **Q.3=5 points.**

Q.4. In my lectures and in your assigned readings from William Julius Wilson's *When Work Disappears*, Wilson observes that joblessness combines with concentration effects and social isolation to create conditions that give rise to what Wilson calls "ghetto related behavior." Please indicate how joblessness, concentration effects and social isolation create conditions that give rise to "ghetto related behavior." During your discussion you will first need to define joblessness, concentration effects, social isolation and ghetto related behavior.* Thereafter a sound response will discuss how the overlapping concepts of joblessness, concentration effects and social isolation create conditions conducive to "ghetto related behavior." **Q.4=10 points**

**Note: while concentration effects and social isolation overlap you should indicate in your definitions how they differ as well.*