

## Take-home Examination – Spring Semester 2008

1. What is the "credential society" according to Collins? Explain credentialism in detail and then critique it as a theoretical concept noting that access to education is different for different categories of people (class, race/ethnicity, and gender). Include in your answer a discussion of the fact that even with the same level of education women and minorities often receive significantly less pay than white males and whether or not this is contradictory to Collins' claims. Either way, support your answer.
2. With industrialization the institution of the family was reshaped in many ways. Some of its functions were retained, others moved primarily to other institutions. The basic structure (nuclear or extended) changed, and the expectations for men and women changed because of the relocation of the workplace. Explain these changes in detail, noting in particular the changing functions, roles, and structure of the family and how industrialization was responsible.
5. What is the Protestant Ethic, according to Weber? Explain how Weber suggested that the Protestant Ethic contributed to the rise of Capitalism in Western Europe. How do his ideas compare to Marx' understanding of religion and social change?
6. Imagine that you are ill. Explain the "sick role" and how it might or might not apply to you. Indicate how the "sick role" is a functional form of behavior according to Parsons. Then explain in detail the theoretical limitations of the concept.

**Requirements for formatting, etc., are the same as for Fall Semester 2007.**