

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2008

<u>TITLE OF PAPER</u>	:	SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
<u>COURSE CODE</u>	:	SOC301
<u>TIME ALLOWED</u>	:	THREE (3) HOURS
<u>INSTRUCTIONS</u>	1.	ANSWER ANY <u>FOUR</u> (4) QUESTIONS.
	2.	ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SOC301: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

1. Critically discuss the theoretical and methodological contributions of Auguste Comte to the discipline of sociology.
2. With specific reference to Durkheim's *The Division of Labour in Society*, discuss the nature and role of collective conscience in traditional and modern societies.
3. Critically discuss the sociological significance of conflict with specific reference to Georg Simmel's analysis of conflict within and between groups.
4. Evaluate Max Weber's methodology of the social sciences with specific focus on *verstehen*, values, and ideal types.
5. Discuss the basic principles of the symbolic interactionist perspective and identify the perspective's major weaknesses.
6. Explain what Giddens means by the term "duality of structure" and discuss the extent to which you find his synthesis of agency and structure compelling.
7. In what ways does socialist feminism build upon and move beyond Karl Marx's historical materialism?
8. What are the defining features of post-modernism in sociological theory? Cite relevant examples to illustrate your answer.