

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER – MAY 2018

- TITLE OF PAPER : CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**
- COURSE CODE : SOC314**
- TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS :**
- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS**
 - 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**
 - 3. TOTAL MARKS: 100**

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

SOC314: CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

1. With specific reference to Talcott Parsons's AGIL scheme and the four action systems, discuss the view that Parsons was primarily concerned with order and integration in society.
2. Contemporary conflict theories have a broader view of conflict and are less deterministic about outcomes than classical Marxist conceptualization of conflict. Discuss this view with reference to the work of Ralf Dahrendorf.
3. Articulate the basic assumptions of symbolic interactionism and ethnomethodology. Use these assumptions to compare and contrast the two perspectives with regard to interaction, meaning, and context.
4. In what ways does an intersectional approach enrich the theorizing about gender oppression in contemporary society?
5. Examine the subjectivist-objectivist controversy in sociological theorizing. Citing the works of specific scholars, explain how sociologists have attempted to resolve this controversy.
6. Identify and discuss the defining features of postmodernism in sociological theory. Cite relevant examples from the literature to support your arguments.