

**Gender Comprehensive Exam
Spring 2010**

Core: Answer each of the following core questions.

- 1) The idea of “gender” has undergone many conceptually and theoretically important changes. For this essay, you need to do the following:
 - a. Define “gender” and how this concept has changed over time.
 - b. Provide an explanation for the evolution of this concept
 - c. Discuss important empirical findings that have contributed to theorizing about gender in different ways using literature from at least two of the following areas: Family & Gender, Economic Inequality & Work, Masculinities, Sex & Sexuality, or Violence.
- 2) Choose a recent sociological study that you believe uses a feminist methodology. Why do you consider the methodology to be a feminist one? How does the methodology differ from other, non-feminist, approaches that have been used to answer the same question? What difference does this make for the results?

Extended: Answer 2 of the following extended questions.

- 3) How does parenting make the experiences of men and women diverge? In what ways do gender differences that arise from parenting vary in families of different race/ethnicity background, class status, or of different sexualities?
- 4) What are the mechanisms which create and maintain gender inequality at work? In your essay:
 - a. identify three (3) mechanisms from different social levels (society, economy, labor markets, organizations/firms, jobs, individuals) and describe how they operate
 - b. include a overview summary of the key findings from the existing literature regarding the impact each mechanism has on women and men workers, and
 - c. provide a persuasive research-based argument regarding which of the selected mechanisms is the most important for sociologists to research and address at this time.
- 5) Gender scholarship arose out of the lack of attention to women’s roles in society. More recently, feminist scholars and others have refocused their gaze on men. How do scholars theorize femininity and masculinity in relation to sex and sexuality? What are the strengths and weaknesses of existing approaches?
- 6) Feminist studies often discuss the importance of intersectionality of gender with other forms of discrimination and inequality. Give some examples of what is meant by intersections using literature from at least two of the following areas: Family & Gender, Economic Inequality & Work, Masculinities, Sex & Sexuality, or Violence. What are the contributions and limitations of this work?