COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

FAMILY

Part 1

1. Discuss and evaluate a) structural and b) cultural explanations for changes in American family structure and family relations during the past three decades. Include references to the literature (authors' names will suffice) where appropriate.

2. Much recent literature on the family deals in one way or another with a debate about whether or not family decline has occurred in modern societies. Summarize the evidence and arguments both for and against the thesis of family decline, referring to some of the more important authors, and then give your own view. Discuss how ideology may have influenced the positions that authors have taken in this debate.

3. How do families in the U.S. compare with families in other parts of the modern world in terms of a) indicators of child welfare, b) marital stability, and c) the strength and salience of kin relations. Refer to specific other countries when appropriate and possible.