DAY 1: General Questions. Answer two of these “two hour” questions.

1. R.W. Connell proposes a pioneering framework for examining gender. Based on Connell’s theorizing, develop a critical examination and comparison of the contributions and limitations of this perspective with regard to the following concepts: 1) hegemonic masculinity and the hierarchical ordering of masculinities; 2) emphasized femininity and marginalized forms of femininity; 3) gender as a relational process; and 4) race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality.

2. Discuss and critically evaluate the three major epistemologies examined by mainstream feminist theorists (i.e., empiricism, standpoint, and postmodernism). Evaluate and critique each one of them. Is this distinction useful? What are the pros and cons of this classification? How do the consideration of race, class, and sexual difference complicate these epistemological distinctions? For example, how do intersectionality and multiracial feminisms complicate and/or inform these epistemologies? Which perspective(s) most inform your own research? Why?

3. Women now make up half of all graduates from medical schools and law schools, and almost half of all new doctorates are women. Yet gender inequality in the top professions still prevails. Discuss these persistent inequalities, and the major sociological theories that explain their persistence. Speculate on the social conditions necessary for the attaining gender equality in the professions.

4. Cultural views of male and female sexuality have changed over time. Describe the major shifts in these views over the past century and provide sociological explanations for those shifts. Be sure to include a discussion of social control of men's and women's sexuality--thinking of both men and women as potential agents and recipients of that control. What does your "favorite" theoretical perspective suggest about future views of male and female sexuality and whether/how social control of men's and women's sexuality fits into that perspective.