Day 1: General Exam in Social Organization

Choose THREE of the following five questions

1. Discuss at least two different theories of class and class conflict. Discuss the contributions of early classical theorists and recent adaptations or revisions of these theoretical traditions. Discuss the relevance of each theory to post-industrial society and each theory's capacity to explain class formation and the class structure existing in modern stratification systems.

2. Distinguish between the functionalist and conflict views of social organization. Identify relevant assumptions, and discuss the major theoretical models and contributors in this literature.

3. Discuss some of the major theoretical approaches to understanding persistent poverty and the underclass, including: the popular explanation, the culture of poverty view, the structural perspective, and the situational approach. What role, if any, does race and culture play in understanding and explaining persistent poverty.

4. What have been the effects of economic restructuring and globalization on cities in developing and developing countries? In your answer make sure to distinguish between developing and developing countries and consider various outcomes including urban growth, the spatial concentration of poverty and affluence, migration, and others.

5. What is a statistical model? Discuss some specific statistical models used by stratification researchers to understand: (1) processes of occupational attainment, (2) intergenerational occupational mobility, and (3) job mobility over the life course or work history. State the major assumptions underlying the specific models, their usefulness for particular contexts, and their contribution to understanding of social stratification.