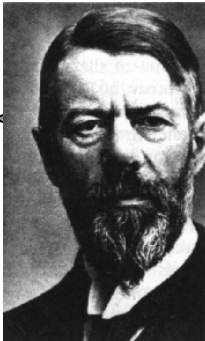


Irony &
Pessimism



Foundations of Sociology

Exam # 3, part 1

Due March 18

Paradox &
Dilemma



1. For each of the following three concepts provide a brief—once or two sentence—definition and a brief example or illustration of your own:
 - verstehen
 - ideal type
 - mental experiment(18 pts)
2. Weber identified four types of social action, but we reduced them to three: (a) briefly explain the rationale behind this change and then (b) describe each of the remaining three types and explain how each is legitimated. (16 pts)
3. (a) What is the major shift that Weber sees in the historical development of Western society (and perhaps the world)? (b) Identify one recent event in the news which supports Weber's contention, explaining how this illustrates the shift you have described. (16 pts)
4. What two additional dimensions did Weber add to Marx's definition of social class? (10 pts)
5. Provide a sense that you understand what you are talking about by briefly explaining the following ideas of Simmel's:
 - social forms
 - sociation
 - segmentation(16 pts)
6. One of Simmel's primary discussions concerns "the significance of numbers for social life." (a) What major sociological insights come from this discussion? (b) What examples can you give from your own experience? (12 pts)
7. Has understanding sociology been difficult in the ways described by the author of "Why Sociology is Difficult"? Provide an example of each of the author's main points from your own encounter with sociology. (12 pts)