

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL 5
FINAL EXAMINATION– 2024/2025 (2nd Semester)
DSU5352 – SOCIAL THEORY



DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 2nd AUGUST 2025

Time: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Instructions:

Answer FIVE (05) questions only. Each answer carries equal marks.

1. Discuss with examples, the basic ideas of Herbert Blumer's symbolic interactionism.
2. "Clifford Geertz was concerned with how people construct meaning through the use of symbols". Discuss this statement with reference to Geertz's interpretive analysis of culture.
3. Discuss Frankfurt School as early critical theory focusing on their core ideas about society.
4. "According to Jurgen Habermas, one of the major issues of advance capitalist societies is that it has a legitimation crisis". Discuss this statement with reference to Habermas' theory in *Legitimation Crisis*.
5. Using a feminist perspective examine why there is a gap between women in higher education and women in the workforce in Sri Lanka.
6. "Post-structuralism portrays society as having overlapping and unstable systems". Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer with reference to at least one post-structuralist theorist.
7. "Habitus is a generative system that produces mental and bodily effects in an individual". Discuss this statement with reference to Pierre Bourdieu and his concept of habitus.
8. "According to Anthony Giddens society is an interconnected process through which social life is produced and transformed". Explain how this process works.
9. Write short notes on any four (04).
 - a. Symbolic violence
 - b. Role-taking
 - c. Michel Foucault and discourse
 - d. Signifier-signified
 - e. Communicative action
 - f. Ontological security