

Sociological Theory notes 2/16
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Top 10 reasons people do poorly on exams

10. suffer in silence and blame themselves for being stupid
9. spend more time finding and reading secondary sources than primary sources
 - quote and cite with page #'s-secondary sources
 - paraphrase-attribute source as well
8. don't ask questions or comment in class
7. don't fill out practice concept sheet
6. don't review readings in light of class discussions
5. don't attend class or sleep through class
4. don't read all assigned materials
3. don't read/follow questions on exam
2. only spend 30 min answering questions on a 75 minute exam
1. forget rabbit's foot

Weber-style-historical-makes lists

- he defines terms for his purposes to be clear on what he means
- this is a theory of social action and methodology of social sciences (methodology-linking epistemology to method)

Durkheim

Central problem- social cohesions in the face of specialization

Epistemology- objectivist, positivist, social realist

Privileged actor- industrialist, moderns

History and social change- transition from tradition to industrial; evolution, not revolution

Explanatory mechanisms- functional, organism

Idiom- holism, positivism, functionalism causal

Goal- rational recognition of collective interests, organic solidarity

p.174- The force that ideas have- Hegel-dialectical idealism instead of materialism- Weber says he gives too much power to the force of ideas, he is critical of idealism and materialism. Weber is trying to find a space between the two that incorporates ideas of both.

-ideal-types- rationalization

-sociology- [interpretive understanding] of social action- p. 178

[subjective meaning]-the kind of thing you can interpret

-social-what makes it go the way it goes and what are the consequences of it

-action- action is social because it's about taking into account **others'** behaviors

-if choice is mechanical, functional or intentional, interpretive understanding fits under intentional because one tries to interpret people's intentions

4 types of social action- p.185 bottom

1. Instrumentally rational- ends/means rationality
2. Value-rational- clearly self conscious- do because it is the right thing to do- ex: don't cheat on exam because it is wrong
3. Affectual- determined by feelings of actors
4. Traditional- most borderline (because often "habitual" rather than meaningful)

-Weber tries to bridge gap between subjectivism and objectivism and materialism and idealization through the motivation of social action

Key concepts

- Ideal types
- Rationalization
- Social action

The big three macro theorists on the character of modern society

Marx	Durkheim	Weber
Modern society is industrial and "capitalist" in the sense of class conflict rooted in material antagonisms & alienated labor. Criticism demystifies social relations obscured by political economy in order to promote revolutionary worker consciousness.	Modern society is industrial and "organized". Sociology assesses social facts in order to clarify interdependence and promote organic solidarity.	Modern society is "organized" on basis of exchange, competition, and rationality. "Capitalist" = based on investment of private capital. Abstract economic theory proposes the characteristic features of such a society through ideal-types and analysis of social action.

For next class

Find two things he's treating as ideal types