

CSUN – SPRING 2010 – SOC 368&368S – KARAGEORGIS – EXAM 2

Pick ONE of the following topics and write an essay of no more than 800 words in response. Use quoted passages sparingly, and make sure you appropriately cite the source(s) of quoted passages and paraphrases. Bring a hard-copy with you to class on Saturday, March 6 and e-mail me an electronic copy of your essay (as an attachment, save your essay as a .doc, .docx or .rtf file) before 9:45 am.

1. Compare and contrast Marx and Durkheim on the 'causes' of the development of the division of labor in societies, and on its effects/implications for societies and their individual members.
2. Define 'mechanical' and 'organic' solidarity, according to Durkheim. Discuss the relationship between the extent of the division and specialization of labor/functions in a society and the relative weight of each kind of solidarity in bonding/attaching individuals to society.
3. Compare and contrast "alienation" and "anomie" as problematic chronic features of societies like ours, or of certain important sectors thereof. Discuss Marx and Durkheim's proposed 'remedies' for those problematic features.
4. Analyze Marx's description of and predictions about the formation of proletarians into a solidary class using Durkheim's concepts of 'mechanical' and 'organic' solidarity.
5. Define Durkheim's notion of collective conscience/consciousness. What determines the strength of its effect on individual consciences/consciousnesses? What determines the number and relative strength/efficacy of collective consciences/consciousnesses on individuals? Discuss.
6. Is every social group more or less "a Church" according to Durkheim? What determines the extent/degree to which a social group is "a Church"? What are the effects on individuals (their thoughts, sentiments, actions) of being 'members of' groups which are more, or less, "Churches"? Discuss.