Summer Examinations 2015

SOC100615N

Module Title: Social Identities in the Global Age
Level: Four
Time Allowed: Two hours

Instructions to students:

- Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
- Answer two out of twelve questions.
- All questions are equally weighted.
- Begin each answer in a separate book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering. The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

No. of Pages: 3
No. of Questions: 12
Answer two out of twelve questions.

Allow one hour for each question and include an introduction, main content and conclusion.

1. What do you understand by the concepts of structure and agency? Consider the impact of each with reference to either class or gender identity.

2. How far does the Great British Class Survey show that class matters to people’s sense of identity?

3. For Tonnies the change to impersonal societies will leave us without a sense of belonging in modern society. How far do you think his ideas are still relevant to contemporary society?

4. Our social identities are not determined by nature or early nurturing but by our social experiences and interactions. Comment on the statement with reference to the symbolic interactionism of Mead and Blumer.

5. How far do you agree with Anthony Giddens that in late modernity we have much greater reflexivity and, therefore, control over our social lives?

6. Which theory or theories do you consider to be the most convincing in explaining the acquisition of gender roles?

7. Masculinity is in crisis. Discuss.

8. In liquid modernity everything becomes a commodity to be purchased including image and identity. Using the work of Bauman and others critically consider how advertisers and the media shape our social identities.

9. Globalisation has positively influenced the shaping of collective and individual identities in modern Britain? Discuss.

10. How significant is race and ethnicity in shaping social identity in contemporary British society? Discuss.
11. In contemporary English society the idea of national identity is difficult to define and of little significance in peoples’ lives. Discuss

12. How far is Goffman’s idea of stigma “a thing of the past”? Discuss with reference to individuals and groups in contemporary society.