

**CLASS ANALYSIS AND HISTORICAL CHANGE
WRITTEN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
AUGUST 1996**

AFTERNOON EXAMINATION

Part III. Answer one question (Question 4 or Question 5 below).

Question 4. Development:

Globalization is frequently discussed in almost seamless terms, as if the reorganization of production in the past twenty years is simply a technical process, with no social aspects. Writers in the class-analytic tradition have argued that the changing organization of production internationally should be examined through the prism of class relations, looking at the different dynamics and implications for different social groups. Discuss the contributions made by three (3) writers on globalization, showing how their attention to class issues enriches our understanding of broad social processes.

Question 5. Institutional Transformation:

Consider the following proposals for the radical institutional transformation of developed capitalist societies:

1. universal basic income grants
2. market socialism
3. workers ownership and management of firms
4. associational democracy

Take one of these proposals and examine (a) the underlying logic and rationale for it; (b) the ways in which the proposal advances — or fails to advance — central emancipatory values; (c) the feasibility of the proposal. (Feasibility in this context refers to the workability of the proposal as an institutional arrangement, not the achievability of the proposal as a political project under contemporary historical conditions).

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Part IV. Answer one question (Question 6 or Question 7 below).

Question 6. Race:

William Julius Williams' The Declining Significance of Race has clearly been a major touchstone in discussions about changing racial patterns in the United States, and many of his arguments have been incorporated in both right-wing and left-wing political discourse. Discuss Wilson's contribution to our understanding of racial inequalities in the late twentieth century. Then, consider to what extent have Wilson's arguments have been significantly undercut by evidence offered by his challengers, or by more recent theoretical perspectives on racial identities and processes in the United States.

Question 7. Gender:

Feminists working within the class-analytic tradition have stressed the ways in which capitalist processes are gendered: working class men and women have experienced capitalist exploitation in very different ways. Choose four (4) works focusing on gendered processes within capitalism, and discuss the ways in which a gendered perspective might differ from a less gendered vision. In what ways does a more gendered perspective alter, refine, or distract from a more abstract understanding of capitalism?