



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS (Mediators / Liaisons)
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
BIS 2105: FAMILY STUDIES AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
[Examiner: Robert Odero]

DATE: 25th October 2024

TIME: 10:30 – 12:30

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

Question 1

- a) Every culture struggles to answer the question, “Who Am I?”. Today across our globalised world, many people are finding that question increasingly harder to answer than ever before. From an anthropological perspective as studied in the course, define who a human person is, both:
 - i. From the perspective of persons as (multi-layered) individuals **(9 marks)**
 - ii. From the perspective of persons finding fulfilment in relationships/community. **(3 marks)**
- b) What does it mean to say that the main purpose of sexuality is to open up the human person to transcendence? (To transcend = to go beyond oneself) **(6 marks)**
- c) Use the excerpt below from (<https://www.jordanbpeterson.com/political-correctness/the-gender-scandal-part-one-scandinavia-and-part-two-canada/>) to answer the questions below:

In the last lecture, in Helsinki, it was Finland’s Father’s Day, so I talked about masculine virtue. In Stockholm, I concentrated more on what has come to be known as the “gender paradox.” Here is the paradox in a nutshell: as societies become more gender-equal in their social and political policies, men and women become more different in certain aspects, rather than more similar. Given that differences in temperament and interest help determine occupational choice, and that difference in occupational choice drives variability in such things as income, it follows that political doctrines that promote equality of opportunity also drive inequality of outcome. This is a big problem — particularly if the goal of such egalitarian policies was to minimize the differences between men and women. It’s actually a fatal problem, for a particular political view. The facts can be denied, but only at the cost of throwing out social science in its entirety and a good bit of biology as well. That is simply not a reasonable solution. The best explanation, so far, for the fact of the growing differences is that there are two reasons for the differences between men and women: biology and culture. If you minimize the cultural differences (as you do with egalitarian social policies) then you allow the biological differences to manifest themselves fully.

- i. What is temperament and how does it relate to gender? (6 marks)
- ii. Make a reasoned case as to why minimizing male-female differences may be detrimental to society. (6 marks)

Question 2

- a) Describe love at various levels among men and women (9 marks)
- b) What are the two ends of the conjugal act and the two essential properties of marriage (4 marks)
- c) What does the statement, 'Men and women are essentially equal but functionally different?', mean? (2 marks)

Question 3

- a) Explain three approaches or normativities that may be used in the critical study of family studies and human development. (6 marks)
- b) Based on each of the approaches above, explain the criteria you would use to judge the correctness of using *in vitro* fertilization as a means to achieve the conception and birth of a child (6 marks)
- c) The 'Golden Rule': *do unto others as you would want them to do unto you*, is one of the means we normally use to determine whether our actions are good or bad. Which *normativity* does it fall under? (1 mark) Give an example of how you would use it to determine the morality of an action in your everyday life? (2 marks)

Question 4

Millennials and Gen Z: You've been robbed

By Mary Eberstadt

Dec 12, 2022

It's very easy and common for people, say the Baby Boomer generation, to make fun of the Millennials. We have all of these derogatory terms like "snowflake" that get hurled at the Millennials and the Zoomers and I think that's a big mistake first of all because there's a lack of empathy behind it but also because the Millennials and the Zoomers have distinct problems that their parents did not have. I entitled the speech "You've Been Robbed" because I do think young people have been deprived of things that their parents could afford to take for granted.

Robust family life is one of those things. Families have been shrinking. Families have been imploding. There's been a lot of family breakup during the decades since the Sexual Revolution and that's one pretty big thing that's missing in a lot of young lives. It's not the only thing young people suffer from. There's also ideological indoctrination in the universities. They are being taught that their country is a terrible place; that America is a failed experiment and that it can't be distinguished from the worst parts of its history so they've been robbed of something very ordinary. Some people, deprived of recognition in the traditional family, have regressed to a state in which their demand for recognition becomes ever more insistent and childlike. This brings us to one of the most revealing features of identity politics: its infantilized expression and vernacular. The bizarre behavior of protesters at various controversial public talks—the crying, the chanting and stomping, the seeming inability in case after case to respond to authority and reason.

Because of this "Great Scattering" more people have become isolated and lonely. They reach old age with no familial source of companionship. Elderly people in Japan are dying alone, resulting in a new industry: firms that clean out the apartments of the isolated dead, because no family members remain to do it. While senior citizens are the most visible objects of concern... they are not the only people affected. One national survey found that nearly half of all Americans report "sometimes or always" feeling alone, and that Generation Z—born between 1995 and 2010—is the loneliest generation of all. This lack of thick family ties also helps to account for the #MeToo

movement, which inadvertently reveals where decades of smaller, less functional families and more dissipated communities have led: to a massive failure of many men and women to learn some of the most basic facts about themselves and the opposite sex. The decline of the traditional family has resulted in a society in which women no longer know men as companions and protectors, but only as predators; in which men know women mainly through the narratives they absorb in watching pornography.

Finally, they've also been robbed of the ability to feel proud of where you come from and because of the same kind of indoctrination from the universities, they've also been robbed of the Classics; the Great Books. It is no longer *de rigeur* for them to be taught these things, all of which are treasures to be passed down through the generations ... and the generations before the Millennials and the Zoomers have largely failed at that transmission. That's what I meant in saying that they've been robbed.

- a) In terms of relationship between the sexes, what changed during the Sexual Revolution of the 60s and why? **(3 marks)**
- b) How does living in stable families with several siblings help a child with emotional development? **(3 marks)**
- c) Stories are a powerful means of transmitting the values and customs from one generation to the next. How do stories from the Classics or the Great Books help to preserve or restore family values in a society? (It might help to mention at least one example of a Classic in your explanations). **(3 marks)**
- d) Which are the 4 cardinal or traditional human virtues? Describe each briefly **(6 marks)**

Question 5

This document was prepared at the Fourth World Conference on Women by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

ON THE DIGNITY OF THE AFRICAN WOMAN SPEECH GIVEN BY DR. MARGARET OGOLA, KENYA

Chair Lady Mama Mongella; Your Excellencies; Honourable Delegates; Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Dr. Margaret Ogola, I am a paediatrician and the director of a hospice for HIV and AIDS orphans. I am also Vice-President of Family Life Counselling (Kenya). I am a published author of a book "The River and The Source", which recently won the Africa region Commonwealth Award for Literature. It deals with the story of four generations of African women. It is an honour and a privilege for me to get this brief opportunity to address this august gathering who are here to deliberate upon a subject, which is dear to my heart- The empowerment of the woman.

The woman is the heart of the family, and the family is the corner stone of society, therefore it is very fitting that we should be here in Beijing for the Fourth World Women's Conference seeking new ways to enhance her well-being, natural talents and gifts. The woman is a powerhouse of creativity, development and peace. Conflict between men and women is therefore unnecessary because a woman brings an equal and powerful complementarity to the common human condition. Women have been entrusted with the capacity to transmit life which is the most precious gift that anybody can give or receive. Without life no other good is possible.

1. Let us realise that men and women share one world. Equality must not be seen to deny anyone of their rightful due. Indeed, equality would be self-defeating if it were based on injustice. Injustice cannot be corrected by another injustice. I personally would lay down my life for each and every one of my children – three sons and two daughters.

2. We must not allow women's health needs to be torpedoed by other peoples agendas. All our African delegates here and our people know that our health systems have deteriorated alarmingly under the weight of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP's), and the eternal burden of foreign debt. The priorities for the African woman and her family are therefore:

- a. The strengthening of the health care systems by making them effective, affordable, and accessible to all women and the African population as a whole.
- b. The training of traditional mid-wives should be re-introduced and strengthened as they deliver 80% of the women in Africa
- c. Investment in the training of middle level health care providers who can reach more women at the grass-roots level
- d. Ensure the availability of cheap and safe methods of child spacing such as Natural Family Planning which has been recognised and recommended by WHO and reputable medical journals such as the British Medical Journal and Lancet as having 98% effectiveness and being totally safe.
- e. I am distressed that there seems to be a conspiracy to keep women in the dark, especially the African woman, regarding the many dangerous side-effects of contraceptives, some of which are irreversible and life threatening. I especially abhor the experimentation and dumping of untested and harmful drugs in Africa and other developing countries.
- f. Recognise fully the irreplaceable role of parents and the family in educating and in forming children in matters of sexuality, with recognition of and with full respect for African culture and religious beliefs. While recognising that there are some undesirable aspects of our indigenous cultures, we must not abandon it whole sale in preference for imported Western values as contained in the document, which are unclear about important issues like family and gender. Family is the corner stone of our societies and culture, and the source of our strength.
- g. Ensure the urgent provision and strengthening of quality basic and secondary education, middle level professional and vocational facilities to make education accessible and affordable to all, as education is a basic human right.

Unless we recognise that each individual is unrepeatable and valuable by virtue of simply being conceived human, we cannot begin to talk about human rights. This includes the right to be born, as all of us have enjoyed. True justice should be for each human being, visible and invisible, young and old, disabled and able, to enjoy fully their right to life. The accidental attributes that we acquire such as colour, sex, intelligence, economic circumstances, physical or mental disability should not be used as an excuse to deprive a person of life.

In ending I would like to give my accolade to the undefeatable spirit of African women which I have dealt with extensively in my book. The inspiration for this book came from my mother who handed down to me the wisdom and lives of her own mother and grandmother. This strength and support that is found in the African family is the most important part of our culture, and should be preserved and nurtured at all costs.

- a) Outline 3 global trends affecting marriage and family today that emerge from this speech. Bring out the contrasting views and implications of each trend **(6 marks)**
- b) Compare and contrast the version of feminism being advocated here for African women with the other versions advocated for by Western countries **(6 marks)**

- c) Historically and culturally, when it comes to matters relating to family, care and education of women is a more crucial than that of men. J.D. Unwin makes a similar claim in his 1934 book, *Sex and Culture*. Outline any 3 overlapping claims between Unwin's observations on the pre-eminence of women in cultural formation and those made by Margaret Ogola in her speech to the UNDP **(3 marks)**