I. Structural Functionalism

A. Theorists: Talcott Parsons and Thomas Merton

B. Post WWII: Dominant social theory

C. Classical Influence

1. Durkheim

2. Weber

D. General Assumption

1. focus: social structures and their relationships to each other

2. structures: mutually supportive

3. function: positive

4. society: tends toward equilibrium

5. emphasis: social order

6. change is orderly

II. Talcott Parsons: Action System

1. Functional Imperatives AGIL

1. Adaptations

2. Goal attainment

3. Integration

4. Latency (pattern maintenance)

B. Structural Components

1. Behavioral Organism; adaptation

2. Personality System: Goal attainment

3. Social System: Integration

4. Cultural System: latency function\*\*\*\*

C. Assumptions of Action System

1. characterized: order and interdependence

2. tend toward equilibrium

3. may be static or ordered process of change

4. maintains boundaries with environment

5. allocation and integration

6. overall system self-maintenance

D. Social system

1. basic unit: status role complex (not person

a. status: position

* 1. role: demands of position

2. actors and social system

a. socialization

i. internalization of norms and values

ii. satisfaction of need dispositions

“The combination of value-orientation patterns that are acquired ( by the actor in socialization) must in a very important degree be a function of the fundamental role structure and dominant values of the social system.”

b. social control

c. personality system: function of social system

3. Society as social system

a. “a relatively self-sufficient collectivity the members of which are ableto satisfy all their individual and collective needs and to live entirely within its framework.”

b. Four structures or subsystems

i. economy: function of adaptation to environment through labor, production and allocation

ii. polity (political system): function goal attainment by pursuing society objectives and mobilizing actors and resources

iii. fiduciary (schools and families) latency function transmitting norms and values and allowing internalization

iv. societal community: integration function

F. cultural system\*\*\*\*\*

1. culture

a. patterned, ordered system of symbols: ideas, beliefs, values, norms

b. internalized by personality system

c. institutionalized patterns of social system

2. culture is major force binding elements of social world

1. part of other systems

i. norms and values of social system

ii. internalized by personality system

b. separate system

i. social stock of common knowledge (conventional wisdom)

ii. ideas, beliefs, rituals, values

G. Personality system: function of social and cultural systems

1. Basic component: need disposition

1. not biological
2. drives shaped by social setting (status rol

2. Three types

a. need of love and approval from social relationships

b. need to observe cultural standards

c. need to fulfill role expectations

3. A Passive System

a.